

# ORLANDO Attractions MAGAZINE

AttractionsMagazine.com  
Volume 8, Issue 4  
Fall 2015 • \$5.99

## Disney World First-Timer?

Top 10 Tips & Tales

Inside  
the Crayola  
Experience

Disney Details:  
Wilderness Lodge

**PLUS**

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Cartoons, Games,  
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Q&A with Epcot's  
American Music Machine

Resort Report:  
Disney's Polynesian  
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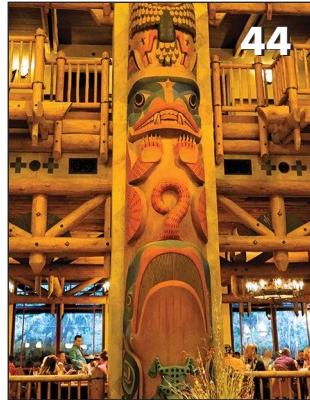
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#### ON THE COVER:

A first-time visit to Walt Disney World isn't complete without getting a photo of Cinderella Castle at Magic Kingdom. It's even more photogenic now with the fountains and statues added during the Hub expansion.

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# ORLANDO **Attractions** MAGAZINE *The Show!*



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# What's new on... AttractionsMagazine.com

## THESE STORIES AND MORE...

In addition to the stories and photos in this magazine, check our website regularly for even more, plus many videos. Stay up-to-date with all the latest theme park and attraction news through our weekly video shows, download our free iPhone/iPad app and sign up for our free e-mail newsletter.

### SHARKNADO 3 HITS UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

The SyFy original movie *Sharknado 3* recently debuted, with many scenes taking place around Universal Orlando Resort. From a shark riding the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit track to the Universal globe rolling through CityWalk, lots of over-the-top mayhem happened in the film. Plus our own Banks Lee made a cameo in a scene! Head to our blog for highlights from the film, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the filming including interviews with the stars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL

### D23 EXPO 2015 RECAP



Lots of big news was announced during Disney's biennial D23 Expo in California. Star Wars Land, Toy Story Land and Soarin' Around the World were just a few of the things. Head to our blog at [AttractionsMagazine.com](#) for a full recap of the event. Also, our YouTube channel is full of videos from the various presentations, with appearances by Johnny Depp, Harrison Ford, Stan Lee and more. And don't miss our Aug. 20 episode of "Orlando Attractions Magazine: The Show", filmed entirely at the D23 Expo.



### IPW SPECIAL EVENT

Ever wonder what it's like to attend a park buyout? The IPW travel industry convention recently took place in Orlando with special private parties happening at Magic Kingdom and Universal Orlando. Head to our YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/AttractionsMagazine](#) for videos of special character appearances and moments that took place during the event.



### MAGIC CITY MAYHEM

Join Mikey and his family as they document their weekly adventures through Orlando's theme parks and smaller attractions during the new vlog show, *Magic City Mayhem*. New episodes debut every Wednesday on our YouTube channel.

### LIVE FROM THE PARKS

Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/attractions](#), on Snapchat at [AttractionsMag](#) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/attractionsmagazine](#). We frequently post on-the-spot information, photos and short videos while we're inside Orlando's theme parks. You can also be notified of our latest videos if you subscribe to our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/attractionsmagazine](#).



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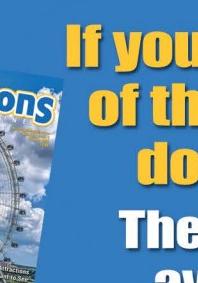
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# Feedback

O.A.M.  
1 Dec  
WDO FL

YOUR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND CREATIVITY ...



## Spot This Difference .....

Hello. Our family loves your Orlando Attractions Magazine. One page in your magazine that is a lot of fun to us is the Spot The Difference page. It motivated me to work on one myself for family and friends. I worked in Photoshop with a picture we had taken last Christmas at Islands of Adventure. It was a lot of fun to do. So if ever you are in need of some help with that, please count me in! It has seemingly stumped some family members. They can find seven to nine differences so far. We are Central Florida residents and love the parks! Who wouldn't?

Kerri Kane  
Winter Springs, Fla.

**Thanks for the extra puzzle Kerri. I don't think our current Spot the Difference designer, Christopher, wants to give it up anytime soon. But we'll keep you in mind if he does.**

## Orlando Views Better Than London?

I love your magazine and videos

online. Just recently we couldn't stop laughing and enjoying the video on American Ninja Warrior in Orlando. I just had to write in though, when seeing something in your recent magazine. You compared the London Eye to the Orlando Eye. All in all a fun read, and then, you award the "View" to Orlando?! I had to read that twice. Even your picture has the London Eye looking out on so much history including Big Ben, Parliament and the River Thames. And Orlando has, grass? I know all things are subjective. This proves the case! Anyway, just wanted an excuse to write into you for a while - thanks for providing it! Keep up the fantastic work!

Don Lewis  
Minneapolis, Minn.

**Thanks Don. We had a debate about that one here in the office. Many of us agree with you, but ultimately it's Banks Lee's column and he decides. His reasoning is that in London, you can only see the river and buildings, but in Orlando, you can see fields,**

**buildings, lakes and theme parks. As you said, it's subjective.**



## Coffee Mickey .....

When my son Aaron turned 10, we took him and his brother Jarred to a birthday breakfast at IHOP. Then we spotted this coffee pot. We were like "wow". Especially that we're going to Disney in a few weeks. We love your magazine. I wish there were more of them. It's our

**We asked our Facebook fans: "Which of Disney's new theme park lands - Avatar, Star Wars or Toy Story - are you most excited about?"**



favorite magazine. Me and my two sons love reading it.

Monique and Aaron Grabois  
Huntingdon Valley, Penn.

**That's cool. The creamers look even more like a Hidden Mickey in the reflection. Good eye.**



**Beautiful Place .....**

We just got back from Orlando. What a beautiful place. Hated to come home. At least when I did, your magazine was waiting for me (thank you God). Love what y'all are doing. Here's a picture of my wife, daughters and son at the Magic Kingdom. Can't wait to go back in 2017. So far away. I'll be relying on you guys.

Melvin Carr Jr.  
Edmond, Okla.

**Thanks. We are happy to be there for you in between visits.**

## WRITE TO US!

We want your letters and photos! If you have any **comments** about the magazine, **questions** about traveling to Orlando or fun stories or photos to share, simply e-mail us at [info@attractionsmagazine.com](mailto:info@attractionsmagazine.com).

"Like" Orlando Attractions Magazine on Facebook to keep up with all the latest news and answer next issue's Facebook question.



**Kelly Beck Zanauskas**

Toy Story Land, for the slinky roller coaster. However, I wish they would have considered just naming it Pixar Place and expanding that way. I think there would be more opportunity for future expansions with new attractions through all Disney/Pixar films instead of being limited to Toy Story.

**Leona Bowman**

Toy Story!!! But I am excited for the nighttime aspect of Avatar.

**Kelly Christina**

Toy Story. I'm not that kind of Avatar and Star Wars fan. In fact, I think they don't represent Disney, at all!!!!

**Megan Real**

Avatar - I haven't seen the movie, but the concept is the most unique and it seems like it will be the most original.

**Irene Harris**

Avatar without a doubt. Loved the movie.

**Amanda Moss**

Star Wars or Toy Story. I could not care any less for Avatar. I think it's ridiculous that they're creating it.

**Ruth Rotherham**

Toy Story Land. After having recently visited the one at Disneyland Paris, I'm really excited to see how the version in Hollywood Studios will differ, and breathe new life into the classic Pixar story.

**Peta Newsome**

Toy Story Land - a land the whole family can get excited about from 1 to 100!

**Michael Goff**

All of them! However I think Toy Story is number one as I'm a huge Disney Pixar nerd!

**David Harrison**

I'm looking forward to Toy Story Land. I've grown up with the Toy Story franchise and my kids are really into it as well. A family coaster is a great idea and being able to go to Al's Toy Barn will be great! I like the family rides with the little ones.

**Bill Johnson**

Neither. We will see them, but not likely make use of them. We are, however, very happy that Disney is making some positive steps with Disney Studios. Because even on a two week visit to WDW, we only give the studios a few hours.

**Adam Phillips**

Star Wars land. Toy Story Land reminds me of Bugs Land in California Adventure - I think the rides will be aimed more towards children. Avatar could surprise everyone though and offer an experience that is amazing even if you aren't a fan of the franchise.

**Yvonne Mick**

Toy Story Land! I want to take a ride on the Slinky Dog coaster.

**Becky Hoh**

Avatar. Although I haven't seen the movie yet, it looks awesome. It sounds amazing.

**Gary S. DeMotte**

Shockingly, I'm looking forward to Avatar. Not because the property is even remotely interesting to me. It's not. But I expect the WDW/Cameron marriage will produce things I've never seen before. I've already enjoyed a good Star Wars ride, and a great Toy Story ride. Everything that's been announced for those two areas just seems kind of familiar to me.

**Daniel A. Capstick**

Whichever is done first.

**Jeffrey Thomas**

I think they will all be very cool. I think Star Wars Land might be the most interesting escape. That is taking guests to a very full experience of somewhere else.

**Cathe Nathman**

Toy Story! Love the movies and characters and I am looking forward to seeing how Disney brings it to life!

**Debra Jensen**

Avatar! I think it will present a more exotic fantasy that isn't main stream amusement park.

**Annabeth Chase**

Toy Story! I'm more a Pixar fan than a Star Wars fan. Could care less about Avatar - hated that movie with a passion!

**Ricki Myers**

I'm not impressed with Star Wars – hate it. I couldn't sit through Avatar and I have tried on more than one occasion and failed. Toy Story – now we're talking. Can't wait to ride the slinky.

**Elizabeth Charland**

Avatar. At least it has an opening date and is in progress. And I'm not even a fan of the movie. Toy Story Land doesn't look that great (similar to what they have in Disneyland Paris, which was underwhelming) and Star Wars land will probably be done when I'm dead.

**Peter Lau**

I like Star Trek better than Star Wars and I don't like Avatar, so I guess Toy Story Land, but not by much.

**Blair Hischuck**

I'm excited for Avatar Land. I know a lot of people aren't looking forward to it but I think it will be a perfect addition to Animal Kingdom.

**Kelly Derda**

After seeing all of the coverage from D23, I am actually most excited about Avatar. You could see all the effort that is going into making the land unique, and I am very interested in seeing how the bioluminescence turns out!

**Michael Travers**

Toy Story. Nothing meaningful will be known about Stars Wars land for a while now, but that should end up being the best of the three. Avatar looks like it will look pretty, but lacks the groundbreaking technology that Disney needed to bring to the parks.



# Then & Now

## From One Unique Restaurant to Another

Universal's Islands of Adventure hasn't changed much since its opening in 1999, except for the addition of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter - Hogsmeade. The Lost Continent area was much larger before the Wizarding World expansion. Two rides in the area still remain, but with some changes and new names.

Dueling Dragons roller coaster is now called Dragon Challenge and doesn't duel anymore. The Flying Unicorn roller coaster (inset) is now known as Flight of the Hippogriff. The Enchanted Oak Tavern was completely torn down, but there's still a restaurant where it once stood. It's now Three Broomsticks.

**THEN (front) ...**



**NOW (front) ...**



**NOW (back) ...**



**THEN (back) ...**



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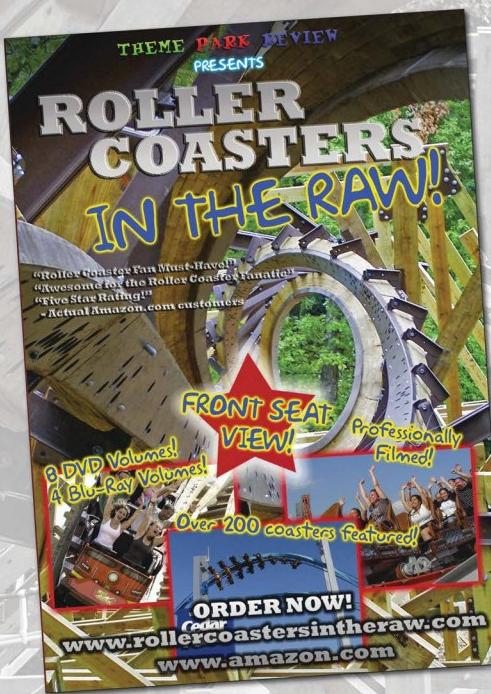


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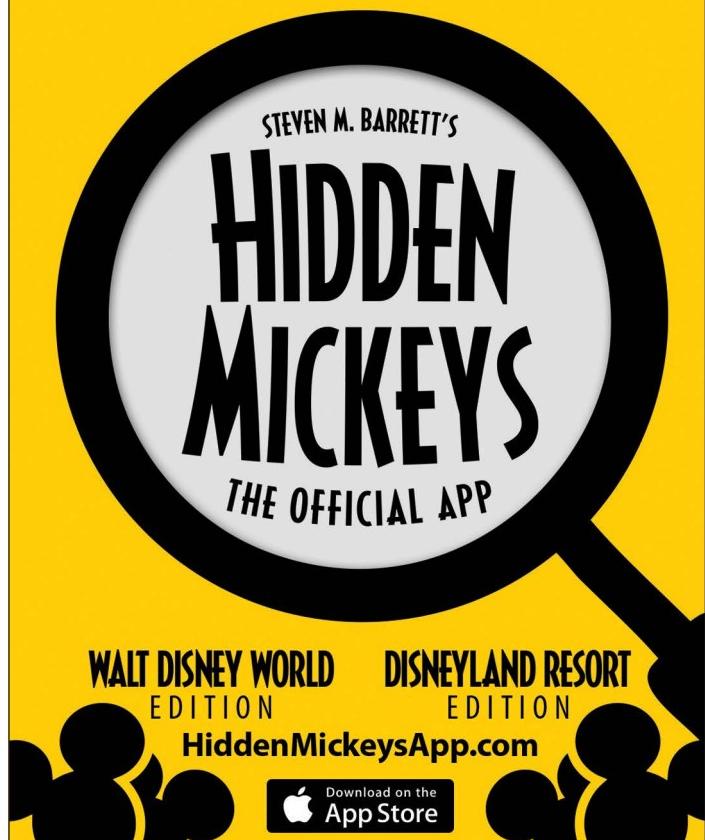
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# Vacation Planner



By Banks Lee



## HOWL-O-SCREAM

**Location:** Busch Gardens Tampa

**Dates:** Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25 and 26; every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from Oct. 1 to 31; Sunday Oct. 18 and 25

**Cost:** \$35 to \$60

A bone-chilling, sinister force descends on Busch Gardens Tampa as they join forces with "Blair Witch Project" producer Robin Cowie, to Unearth an unimaginable evil.



## HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS

**Location:** Universal Studios

**Dates:** Sept. 18-19, 24-27, Oct. 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, 21-25, 28-31 and Nov. 1

**Cost:** \$49.99 to \$101.99

Universal Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights will celebrate 25 years of scares, screams and terror by bringing back some of the most iconic and blood-curdling stories from event history. This year's event will feature nine haunted houses, including one of the highest-rated houses ever, An American Werewolf in London.



## BRICK-OR-TREAT

**Location:** Legoland Florida Resort

**Dates:** Every Saturday and Sunday in October and the 23rd

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission

Brick-or-Treat features trick-or-treating along the brick trail, super brick build activities, the largest Lego Jack-O-Lantern in the world, Halloween entertainment and an all-kids costume contest.

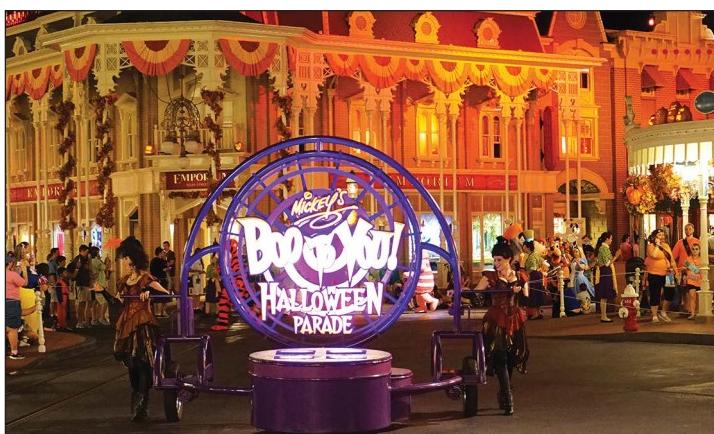
## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

**Location:** SeaWorld Orlando

**Dates:** Every weekend, Oct. 3 to 31

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission

Children and adults alike will be immersed in an underwater "fantasea" at SeaWorld filled with trick-or-treating, arts and crafts, dancing sea creatures and pumpkin fish.



## MICKEY'S NOT SO SCARY HALLOWEEN PARTY

**Location:** Magic Kingdom

**Dates:** Sept. 15, 18, 20, 22, 25; Oct. 1-2, 4, 6, 8-9, 12-13, 15-16, 18, 20, 22-23, 25, 27, 29, 31; Nov. 1

**Cost:** \$68 to \$79

Dress up for this "not-so-scary" occasion with all kinds of candies. You'll soon discover all the boo-tiful ways the spirits of the season have transformed the park into a happy haunted hallows — that includes seeing many Disney Characters in their very own Halloween costumes. Also included are a special parade, fireworks show and new this year, the Hocus Pocus Villain Spelltacular stage show.

## We've chosen our favorite upcoming events to spotlight. You don't want to miss them on your next trip to Orlando.

All events and dates are subject to change. Please check with the proper organization before attending.

Check our calendar section at [AttractionsMagazine.com](http://AttractionsMagazine.com) for up-to-date happenings in the Orlando area.

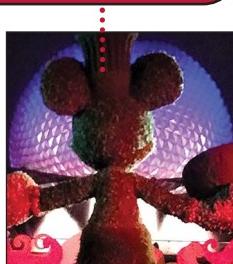
### INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

**Location:** Epcot

**Dates:** Sept. 25 to Nov. 16

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission, food and beverages extra

Disney chefs and festival programmers are whipping up a feast of surprises to celebrate the 20th annual festival. New wine tastings, parties and other culinary experiences built around the 20-year milestone will unite festival fans and first-timers.



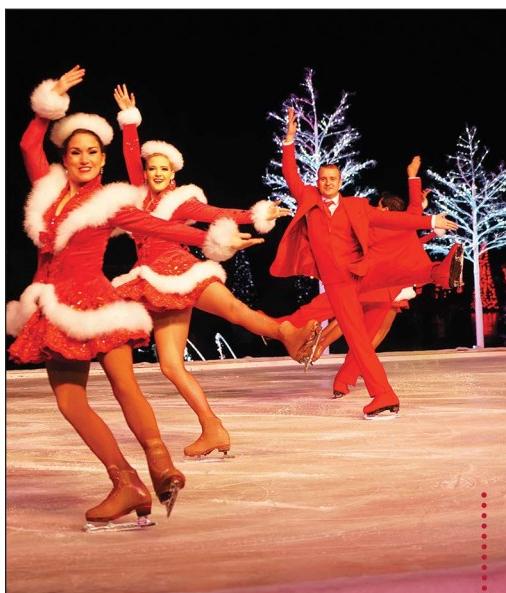
### HOLIDAYS AT UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

**Location:** Universal Orlando Resort

**Dates:** Dec. 4 through Jan. 2

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission

At Universal Studios, Macy's Holiday Parade will fill the streets, and there will be performances by Mannheim Steamroller on select dates. The fun continues with Grinchmas at Islands of Adventure, featuring the Grinchmas Who-liday Spectacular.



### SEAWORLD'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**Location:** SeaWorld Orlando

**Dates:** Select dates in December

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission

Carols fill the air, a sparkling sea of trees lights up the water and skaters dance on ice. Here in this wintry, watery wonderland, you can enjoy live shows inspired by the natural world.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Walt Disney World Resort**  
[disneyworld.com](http://disneyworld.com)  
(407) 939-6244

**SeaWorld Orlando**  
[seaworld.com/orlando](http://seaworld.com/orlando)  
(800) 327-2424

**Busch Gardens Tampa**  
[buschgardens.com/bgt](http://buschgardens.com/bgt)  
(888) 800-5447

### CHRISTMAS BRICKTACULAR

**Location:** Legoland Florida

**Dates:** Select dates in December

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission

Ring in the holiday season with a 30-foot tall Lego Christmas tree made of 270,000 bricks, life-size Lego Santa, reindeer and sleigh, festive decorations, Lego build activities, a Lego Santa Scavenger Hunt and holiday entertainment.

### CHRISTMAS TOWN

**Location:** Busch Gardens Tampa

**Dates:** Select dates from Nov. 27 through Dec. 31

**Cost:** Included with theme park admission

Live entertainment, visits with Santa, shopping and more than a million lights fill guests' senses with seasonal sights, sounds and flavors.



### MICKEY'S VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Location:** Magic Kingdom

**Dates:** Nov. 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 29; Dec. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18

**Cost:** \$74 to \$82

Add some "very" to your "merry" at the veriest, merriest Christmas party of the season. This event will bring Christmas joy to all ages with festive decorations, towering Christmas trees, and wintry entertainment. There will be stage shows, a parade and fireworks exclusive to the event.

# Work in Progress ?

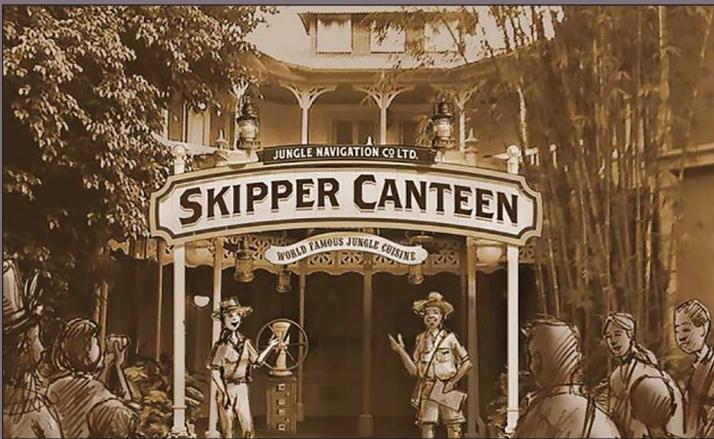
By Quinn Roseboom

## STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Good Food, Bad Puns

#### LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

The Jungle Navigation Co., Ltd. Skipper Canteen is coming to Adventureland later this year. Guests at the new restaurant will be able to enjoy "World Famous Jungle Cuisine" as Jungle Cruise Skippers serve them in rooms such as a crew mess hall and a secret meeting room for the famed Society of Explorers and Adventurers. The space formerly housed a meet and greet with Tinker Bell before she moved to the Town Square Theater.



## STATUS: NEW DETAILS

### Pandora Revealed

#### LOCATION: DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM

The main attraction of "Pandora – The World of Avatar" will be named "Avatar, Flight of Passage". This attraction will be the centerpiece of the new land, and will allow guests to soar on a Banshee over a vast alien world. The flying experience will give guests a birds-eye view of the beauty and grandeur of the world of Pandora during an aerial rite of passage. The other attraction will be a boat ride through the jungles of Pandora.

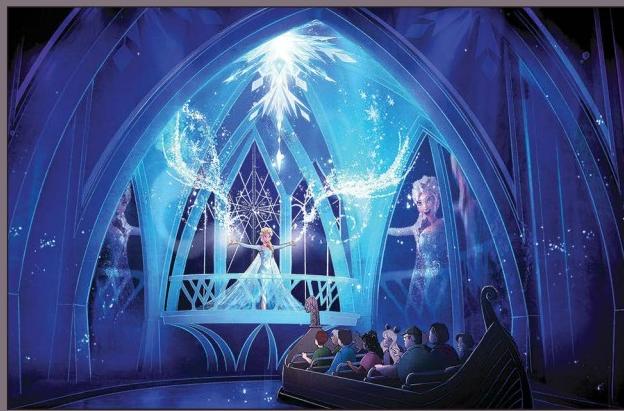


## STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Norway is Slowly Freezing Over

#### LOCATION: EPCOT

The construction taking place in the Norway pavilion for a Frozen character meet and greet has gone skyward and the plot for the Frozen ride, entitled "Frozen Ever After" has been released. Guests will be transported to the "Winter in Summer Celebration" where Queen Elsa uses her magical powers to create a winter day for the entire kingdom. Riders will also visit Elsa's Ice Palace and the ice-blue world of the North Mountain along with other locations before returning to the Bay of Arendelle. Of course, favorite "Frozen" characters, including Olaf, Sven and the Snowgies from the animated short "Frozen Fever," will be part of this new attraction, along with the Norway sights inspired by the film.



## STATUS: ANNOUNCED

### Soarin' Out of California

#### LOCATION: EPCOT

Starting sometime next year, guests will journey to far-flung lands and fly above some of the world's most unique natural landscapes and man-made wonders when the new Soarin' Around the World replaces the current Soarin' ride.



## STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### A More Colorful Innoventions

#### LOCATION: EPCOT

Disney and paint company Glidden are teaming up for a new exhibit in Innoventions East called Colortopia. A narrator will guide guests through hands-on activities. Guests will even be able to take the Colortopia exhibit with them throughout Epcot and back home through a new app and website. The attraction is set to open late this fall.



## STATUS: NOW OPEN

### The Friendliest City

#### LOCATION:

#### LEGOLAND FLORIDA



Based on the popular Lego Friends product line, a new area has opened up. Heartlake City is closely modeled after the five girl Lego Friends characters. The new land features Mia's Riding Adventure, a brand new spinning ride themed around Mia's love of horses; Friends to the Rescue, a musical show starring the Lego Friends; Stephanie's Newsroom photo ops; a Heartlake Stepping Tones Fountain; and The Heartlake Mall.



## STATUS: RELOCATED

### Sing-Along Somewhere Else

#### LOCATION: DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

For The First Time In Forever: A "Frozen" Sing Along Celebration has moved into the Hyperion Theater (formerly Superstar Television Theater) and is now a year-round attraction. The show has new in-theater effects such as projections on the walls and new set pieces.



## STATUS: ANNOUNCED

### Not So Far Far Away Anymore

#### LOCATION: DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

A newly announced Star Wars land will be Disney's largest single themed expansion ever at 14 acres. Guests will visit a remote trading port on a never-before-seen planet where Star Wars characters will come to life. The lands will have two signature attractions: an epic Star Wars adventure that puts you in the middle of a battle between the First Order and the Resistance, and an attraction that puts guests behind the controls of the Millennium Falcon as they take on a customized secret mission. There's no word yet where it will be placed in the park or when construction will begin. Check our website for full details.



# Work in Progress



## STATUS: CLOSED/COMING SOON

### A Long Long Time Ago, No Longer

#### LOCATION: DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

The Magic of Disney Animation's final day of operation was July 12. It was closed to make room for Star Wars Launch Bay. This interactive experience will take guests into the upcoming Star Wars film with special exhibits and peeks behind-the-scenes, including opportunities to visit with new and favorite Star Wars characters and purchase special merchandise and food offerings. Also later this year, Star Tours will include a new adventure featuring locations and characters from "The Force Awakens". The Jedi Training Academy is also receiving new characters from the Disney XD series "Star Wars Rebels." And finally, a new seasonal event entitled Seasons Of The Force will be held in early 2016, in which guests will close out weekend nights with an all-new fireworks show set to the iconic score of the Star Wars movies. There's no word if this will replace Star Wars Weekends or be in addition to it.



## STATUS: CLOSING/UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Volcanic Eruption to Destroy Wet 'n Wild!

#### LOCATION: INTERNATIONAL DRIVE/UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

Wet 'n Wild will permanently close after Dec. 31, 2016. Universal has not yet announced their plans for the land or the slides and attractions in the park, but it's clear why it's closing. Universal has announced they are building a water park on their property adjacent to the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. Volcano Bay is said to be a next-generation water theme park that will reimagine what it means to be a water park. It's set to open in 2017.



## STATUS: NOW OPEN

### Get a TV Sneak Peek

#### LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA

The construction on the Garden of Allah Villas was rumored to be a Universal museum, but it turned out to be the NBC Media Center. It's a place for guests to preview upcoming NBC television shows and give their opinions on them.



## STATUS: CLOSED/ANNOUNCED

### NBA Breaking Up with Universal

**LOCATION: UNIVERSAL CITYWALK/  
DISNEY SPRINGS**

The Walt Disney Company and the National Basketball Association announced they are developing "The NBA Experience at Walt Disney World Resort" at Disney Springs. It will feature hands-on NBA-related activities, immersive NBA video productions and interactive experiences, as well as a restaurant and a retail store. The NBA City restaurant and store in CityWalk closed for good in late August. Universal has not yet announced what will be taking its place, but the new NBA Experience is replacing DisneyQuest, which will be closing sometime in 2016.



## STATUS: OPEN/UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### More Sports for CityWalk

**LOCATION: UNIVERSAL CITYWALK**

The first-ever NBC Sports Grill & Brew will be opening this fall. The new restaurant will combine a stylish setting with wall-to-wall sports coverage, a full menu and a large beer selection.

Food will be prepared on open kettle grills, set where everyone can watch. It will be in the location of the former NASCAR Sports Grille.



PHOTO BY BANKS LEE



## STATUS: DOWN FOR REFURBISHMENT

### Incredible Changes Coming ...

**LOCATION: UNIVERSAL'S ISLANDS  
OF ADVENTURE**

The Incredible Hulk Coaster closed Sept. 8 and will reopen next summer after getting major refurbishments and enhancements to the ride vehicles, story and more. The attraction will still feature the same incredible personality, but guests will experience a more high-tech and immersive attraction.



## STATUS: NOW SERVING

### Pretzels Galore

**LOCATION: SEAWORLD ORLANDO**

Are you a fan of the Bacon Pretzel Twist from Busch Gardens Tampa? You can now find it and more at Mama's Pretzel Kitchen. Pretzel connoisseurs can savor sweet and salty pretzel combinations while sipping on a variety of local and seasonal craft beers, frozen cocktails, wines and beverages.



# Work in Progress ?

## STATUS: CLOSING/ANNOUNCED

### Moving On!

**LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA**

Disaster: A Major Motion Picture Starring You is now closed and the Beetlejuice Graveyard Revue will be ending soon to make way for Fast & Furious: Supercharged. This new attraction will take guests for a wild ride alongside characters and cars from the films as part of an original storyline. Aside from getting an up-close look at the cars, guests will also explore the headquarters of Toretto and his team. Fast & Furious: Supercharged is scheduled to open sometime in 2017.



## STATUS: CLOSED/OPENING SOON

### Goodbye Lucy, Hello Kitty

**LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA**

Sanrio and Universal have announced a partnership to develop a Hello Kitty interactive retail experience. The new shop will be in the location of the former Lucy: A Tribute attraction, which is now closed. Customers will be able to shop for custom-designed merchandise, enjoy photo opportunities with Sanrio properties, create souvenir versions of Hello Kitty's signature bow, and even meet Hello Kitty herself.



## STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Shark Attack!

**LOCATION: SEAWORLD ORLANDO**

Mako, a 200-foot-tall hyper coaster will debut next summer. The ride will reach speeds of 73 mph along 4,760 feet of steel track. Named for one of the ocean's fastest sharks, Mako will be Orlando's tallest, fastest and longest roller coaster. It will be the centerpiece of the newly-themed surrounding land. The two-acre plaza will be fully shark-themed and will include Mako, the current Shark Encounter and Sharks Underwater Grill, plus new shops, shark and shipwreck theming and educational experiences. The area is being created to make guests feel they're underwater, part of the group of sharks that have taken over a shipwrecked reef. The ride and surrounding area is also getting its own musical score.



## STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Why Did it Have to be Snakes?

**LOCATION: BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA**

A one-of-a-kind spinning roller coaster is coming to the Egypt area next year, and it's themed to snakes. Cobra's Curse will feature a vertical lift, forwards and backwards motion and free spinning. Explorers will come face-to-face with an 80-foot snake icon and trek over the park's Serengeti Plain during their Egyptian archeological excavation.



## STATUS: ANNOUNCED

### Andy's Coming!

#### LOCATION: DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

As part of the reimagining of the park, a new 11-acre Toy Story Land will transport guests into Andy's backyard. Guests will be surrounded by oversized building blocks, plastic buckets, game board pieces and more. The new area will also include a family-friendly roller coaster on the back of Slinky Dog and an alien saucers attraction where the famous little green aliens from the movie will take guests for a spin. No date or location has been announced, but we expect the project will be located where the old Studio Backlot Tour used to be.



## STATUS: BANNED

### But First, Let Me Take a Selfie (Stick)

#### LOCATION: WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

First they banned them on rides, now Disney has taken it a step further and has banned all selfie sticks from Disney World theme parks, water parks and DisneyQuest. When guests are seen at bag check or in the park with selfie sticks, a Guest Services cast member will hold the stick until the guest is ready to leave the park. Disneyland Resort theme parks in California, Paris and Hong Kong have also banned the use of the sticks. The sticks can still be used at all other Florida theme parks.



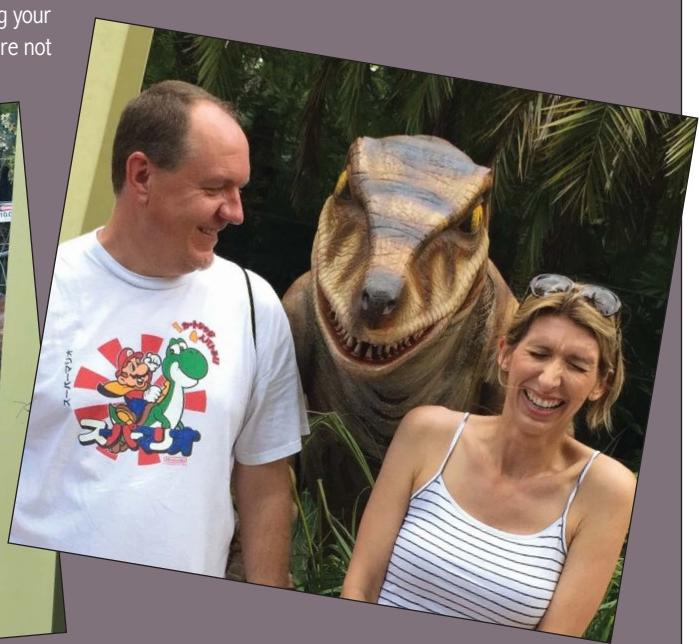
PHOTO BY KEVIN YOUNG

## MEETING NOW

### He Just Stares Right Back

#### LOCATION: UNIVERSAL'S ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE

The velociraptors of Jurassic Park are very menacing, and if you're brave enough, you can get face-to-face with one. Raptor Encounter is now open in the Jurassic Park section of the park, where guests can meet and get their photo with a raptor. During your experience, a voice-over gives out facts about the velociraptor. When it's your turn, be sure not to get too close; raptors can be very unpredictable.



# Photo Finds

Orlando is always filled with fun things to see and our photographers are there to capture it all.



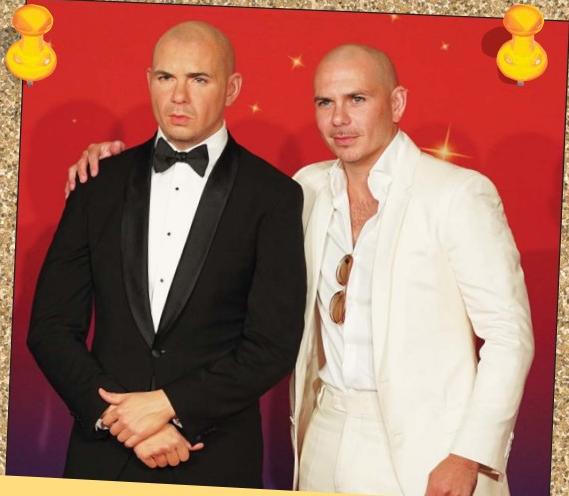
Actor **Kevin Bacon** visited **Give Kids the World** Village in July to kick off their **Ice Cream Challenge**. It works like this: you challenge someone to see who can eat the most ice cream in six seconds and the loser donates \$6 to Give Kids the World. Then you post a video of your challenge online using #GKTWChallenge. Give Kids the World Village helps children with life-threatening illnesses and their families visit the attractions in Orlando free of charge.

Orlando Attractions Magazine - The Show hosts Elisa Goldman and Banks Lee are joined by Publisher/Producer Matt Roseboom with the magazine's new **YouTube channel award** for reaching **100,000 subscribers**. If you haven't subscribed yet, visit [youtube.com/attractionsmagazine](https://youtube.com/attractionsmagazine).

Since opening earlier this year, The **Orlando Eye** has been lit up in many different color patterns. Here it is lit like an **American flag** in red, white and blue for the Fourth of July holiday. It was also lit in rainbow colors for the legal passing of same sex marriages in America, in primary colors for back-to-school, and orange for the IPW travel convention that was in town.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ/SUBLIME IMAGE



Pitbull and Ross Lynch both visited **Madame Tussauds Orlando** to help unveil their new wax figures. Since Madame Tussauds opened earlier this year, wax figures of the Beatles, One Direction, Austin Mahone and others have been added.



The **Walker Stalker convention** made a stop in Orlando in July. The convention was started for fans of "The Walking Dead" television show, but it now also features other shows and movies. Pictured are **Nestor Carbonell** from "Bates Motel" and "Lost", and **Scott Wilson** with **David Morrissey** from "The Walking Dead".

### SEAWORLD SPOOKTACULAR VS. LEGOLAND BRICK-OR-TREAT

Let's move away from the big Halloween events and take a look at two kid-friendly ones.

#### TREATS



Both events offer trick-or-treat trails, but SeaWorld offers the most candy stations and widest variety, plus adults are allowed to get candy at SeaWorld too.

#### CHARACTERS



Not only can guests dress up, but the characters in the parks do as well! Both events feature lots of special characters dressed up for the occasion from Shamu and his friends at SeaWorld to LEGO Halloween characters at Legoland; there's plenty to meet.

#### ACTIVITIES



Aside from trick-or-treating, both parks offer activities for kids. SeaWorld though does have a small charge for some arts and crafts, while Legoland keeps all their activities included with admission.

#### SHOWS



Dance parties can be found at both events, and SeaWorld even has a special Sesame Street Halloween show. But for me, you can't beat the costume contest and nightly fireworks at Legoland.

#### COST

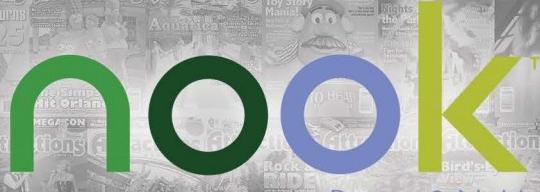


Both SeaWorld's Halloween Spooktacular and Legoland's Brick-or-Treat are included with park admission, so families can enjoy a day in the park and the events too!

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## Catching The Beat of The American Music Machine

A fabulous new musical act has been wowing the crowds at the America Gardens Theater in Epcot's World Showcase since April. American Music Machine has quickly picked up a devoted following for their inventive, catchy and wholly original show. We caught up with the group members to hear how it came together.

The 'Fab Five' are John Barnick, bass; Antonio Fernandez, vocal percussionist; Olivia Barton, soprano; Omar Cardona, tenor; and Kaleia Gancini, alto.

### Did you know each other before American Music Machine?

**Omar:** Most of us have known each other outside of this project, except for Antonio, who is from Seattle. We work and sing in multiple shows around town. As a working singer and musician, you find your outlets and there are multiple possibilities in Orlando, in and outside the parks.



Now taking to the stage at the America Gardens Theatre at Epcot, American Music Machine. This lineup shows (from left), John, Kaleia, Omar, Johannah Katz (not in the Q&A) and "human beatbox" Antonio.

**Olivia:** This is my first job, so Antonio and I didn't know anyone to start with.

**Kaleia:** Omar and I have also worked together around the band scene and the convention options as well as the theater and theme park circuit.

### How did you hear about American Music Machine?

**Omar:** Disney created the group and sought out talent around the country. They auditioned in Atlanta, New York and Orlando, so we all got the job through the audition process. We were asked to sing our favorite a capella songs, then there were call-backs, then they got down to the final five, which was us! I found out through DisneyAuditions.com, which is popular for entertainment work here. Some heard about it through friends or colleagues.

**Olivia:** My mom is a writer for Disney, so she heard about the auditions and was told "your daughter should do this!"

**Antonio:** I met the arranger for the show a year ago and he recommended I give it a shot. I sent in a video submission and I'm very excited they chose me. It's a dream come true.

### What was your understanding of American Music Machine?

**Omar:** I don't think any of us had any idea of what we were getting into. It was unlike any rehearsal process we've been through. It was difficult and challenging and fun at the same time.

**Antonio:** By a slip of a margin I was able to keep my hair, which I was very happy about! But I had no idea what to expect. I was just ecstatic and my family were like, "You get to work at Disney World? Are you kidding me?" It's just shock and awe.

**Kaleia:** A capella is such a big part of pop culture right now. As soon as we saw it on the audition notice, we thought it would be a normal a capella thing; you sing your tune, have some dialogue, tell a few jokes. Then we got here



The 'Fab Five' in action - above, John, Antonio and Olivia. Right, John, Kaleia, Omar, Olivia and Antonio.



and it was a completely different piece of artwork.

**Olivia:** I had no idea it was going to be as personal as it became. I was just excited I was getting paid to sing! To start with, I just thought of it as a job. But when I discovered how intertwined we were all becoming, it became much more a matter of the heart.

#### Did you all know Disney fairly well?

**Kaleia:** Yes, we knew what to expect, but I don't think there is anything like this anywhere on property. They said they wanted it to be different and I think we all found what that difference was as the process went along.

**Omar:** The closest thing to this is Voices of Liberty and Dapper Dans, but this takes on a whole new energy and atmosphere.

**John:** The most rewarding part is that it is unlike anything else. You have a key change almost every 16 bars, which has been a challenge. All of us demand perfection of ourselves, so we won't take a B-plus show. We require A-plus of ourselves. It pushes us to hit our marks and be one-hundred percent.

#### The rehearsal process was only two weeks; what was it like?

**Omar:** We were fortunate it all went as planned. There is usually a lot of change throughout the process, but we were set up for success right from the start. Our management team was excellent and helped us come together as a group really quickly.

**Kaleia:** The rehearsal environment was set up to challenge us to find areas of weakness within ourselves, to rise to the occasion as performers. But it was also a loving and accepting environment; challenging us as people; challenging our character, who we were to create this machine and get all the parts working correctly.

**Antonio:** It is a very humbling experience. I have always been a perfectionist, but this was a whole new experience. It

shows me there is so much more I am capable of. And again, the loving environment makes it a positive learning experience. I am just thankful to be surrounded by people who give their A-game every time.

#### What was your first experience with the music?

**John:** Holy mackerel! Usually you do a full song, then stop, blow a fresh pitch, and do another. I remember following along with the track and going, 'OK, one song. Oh, we're still going. And on it went.' It was 20 minutes of non-stop singing and we're thinking 'Oh wow.' I knew we had a beast in front of us but I knew we had the talent in the room to get it done.



American Music Machine sometimes get their own special highlight signage at the front of the park.

# Q&A

**Antonio:** I came from an a capella group at college where we did a 12-minute set but with a key change and blowing a fresh pitch each time. To see a score where it was 'Change, click; change, click; change,' I was like 'What? How is that even possible?' I was intimidated at first, but I recognized as long as we worked as a team, it would work.

**Olivia:** At first, I was thinking 'I can't do this!' None of us had done anything like this but I was in a room full of talented, experienced people. My next thought was, 'How can I be what everybody needs me to be?' It quickly became clear it was possible because we were rehearsing so much, and I found things about my voice that would probably have taken me years had I not been in this group.

**Omar:** I was excited when I heard the audio for it. It was going to be one of the hardest things to learn and I couldn't wait. I was like 'This is going to be so hard, I love it! It is going to take me forever and it is going to annoy me.' But it was so much fun. I like a good challenge.

**Kaleia:** I remember our arranger said, "Wait, they're going to do this live? All the way through?" He told us, "You guys have some real respect from the studio folks in California who do this for a living." When we first sang it from top to bottom, I was shaking. I was in shock from that much energy, making sound consistently for 20 straight minutes. In a band, you get musical interludes where you can sit back, and it's rarely more than three minutes of singing. Continuously making sound for 20 minutes felt like I just ran a marathon!

## You make it all look so effortless, but were there challenges?

**John:** I wouldn't say it was a challenge, but the biggest thing has been trust, and we gained that very fast. As long as we can trust everyone else is doing their job, it makes our job a lot easier and gives us the freedom to perform. So as long as I can trust these people, I can do my job just fine.

**Kaleia:** Although most of us knew each other, we had never sung together and it was magical when we all got up and said, "Alright, let's see what happens." We went through the set and kind of went, "Oh!"

## The music covers a wide variety of genres and decades – did you all know the material to start with?

**Olivia:** I'm 19 and didn't know many of the songs, to be



The group are all accomplished singers in their own right and can take a solo spot or provide backing vocals for one of the others. From left, Omar, John and Antonio go through their individual roles on stage in their own a capella style.

honest. There were times when they didn't teach the actual melody because they expected everyone to know it, but I didn't, so it was funny. So I learned the song here, and then listened to it later.

**John:** I was exactly the opposite. I was raised on jazz and classic rock, so it was the contemporary stuff where I was like, "What's this?" I knew I'd heard it on my car radio before, but that was all.

**Kaleia:** I come from a musical family so my mom had raised me to sing a lot. All the old favorites were very comfortable for me.

## Do you all have understudies?

**John:** Yes, from day one. The first rehearsal process we were four deep in each role, so every soprano, alto or bass knew the exact same thing and we all started from the same point.

**Kaleia:** We started with all 19 of us in the room and learned everything together. We were all held accountable and all treated the same, so it is kind of a family. For instance, my set of altos are 'my girls.' We're good friends. We struggled through the music together. We have strengths and weaknesses and balance each other out and support each other. So we have this bigger family than the five you see on stage.

**Omar:** I actually have real family in the show! My brother is one of the tenors as well and that was the most intimidating thing on the planet because he is known as one of the best vocalists around. Everybody knows E.J. I've been known as E.J.'s little brother for so long ...

**Kaleia:** But not any more!

**Omar:** So it was intimidating to have him right behind me and singing all the music, and I was like, "How do you do this?" and he would break it down for me.

**Kaleia:** Some of the most talented people in Orlando are in the team. We are expecting some new family any day now! It is such an intensive show, we need more people.

**What's been your favorite feel-good moment?**

**Omar:** We make exciting memories absolutely every day. There are so many moments that we have both onstage and backstage. A few weeks ago we started to do "I Will Survive," and an entire section in the back got up and were dancing! That's the great thing for me, when it's 98 degrees outside and they're dancing because the song triggers a memory for them.

**Antonio:** For me, the most rewarding thing is to see someone out there jamming out and you can tell they are completely feeling the music. It is a connection, and that is what is most rewarding.

**Olivia:** I had a moment the other day when we sang "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera. As soon as I started to sing the solo, which is an anthem about loving yourself for who you are, this two-year-old girl walks out into the aisle, wearing this beautiful red dress, and starts ballerina dancing and twirling around, all by herself. I was looking at her and singing straight to her and I started crying. It didn't come out in my voice, thank goodness, but it was the epitome of what that song is about. After the show I wanted to meet her but I lost her in the crowd. But I loved that moment.

**Omar:** We have some really good moments with the younger generation. Sometimes we have kids coming up and saying, "That was the highlight of my day," or "That was amazing, I loved it" and we inspire a younger generation to love music like we do.

**Kaleia:** Growing up in Orlando and around the parks, remembering similar groups of a past generation, I was that kid, looking at these groups and saying, "that's the coolest thing ever." I was inspired when I discovered a capella music and found there were groups at Epcot. I would ask, "What is this art form; what is a capella?" I remember watching Voices of Liberty and American Vybe. Knowing that I am now that person, that's inspiring. It is fun to be part of that circle of life.

**John:** My dad was a Dapper Dan and that's what I came back to Florida to find. As soon as I saw a show like that, I thought, "That's what I want to do." Being that person now, it is fun to have kids running up to us like we're Mickey and Minnie. They are like, "You guys are awesome. We love you!" It's like being a rock star Mickey Mouse!

---

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ammachine> to see American Music Machine in action.



A song for two - Kaleia and Antonio take their turn in the spotlight during a typical 20-minute American Music Machine performance, on stage Wednesday to Sunday every week at Epcot.



Making it look - and sound - easy. John and Kaleia take center-stage as the high-energy group goes through their impressive repertoire.



Then, it's Antonio's turn, with his vocal percussion, John and Omar, adding their talents to the varied mix.

## SKIPPER BEN'S TOP TEN

# MUST DO'S FOR FIRST TIME VISITORS TO WALT DISNEY WORLD

By "SKIPPER" BEN REBSTOCK

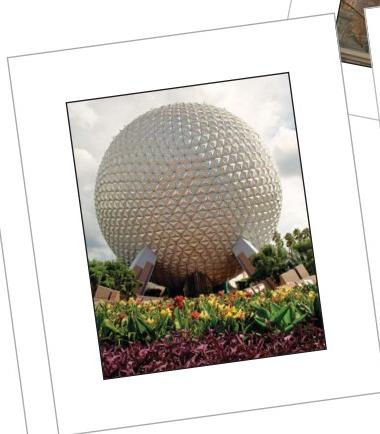
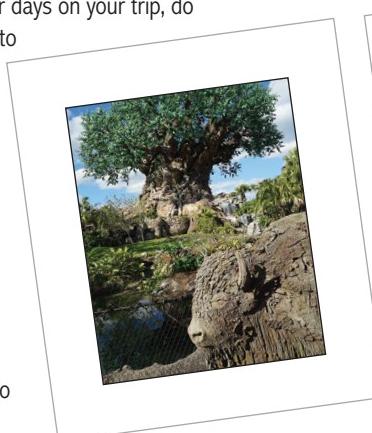
First-time visitors, I've got some bad news for you. No matter how hard you try, you will not be able to do everything you want on your first trip to Walt Disney World. No matter how much planning and studying you do, it's just not going to happen. I hate to disappoint you, but if you follow my guidelines below, you might not end up having the perfect trip ... but it will be darn close. So, as a former cast member and veteran of more trips than I can remember, here are my Top 10 must do's for first time visitors to Walt Disney World.

### Visit All Four Parks

We'll start out with one that regular visitors to Disney World might think rather obvious. But visitors often feel a bit overwhelmed when planning their first trip - when they see everything that is offered. Before you start planning days at Typhoon Lagoon or an afternoon playing a round of mini-golf at Winter Summerland, make sure you've set four full days for the theme parks. Even if you only have four days on your trip, do everything you can to spend one in each park. If anything, it'll help you get a feel for the theme parks and help you better plan your next trip to Disney World. (We all know that after that first trip, you are going to want to go back.)

# 10

• • •



# 9

### Ride 'It's a Small World'

Get this out of the way early. It's the ride you've probably heard the most about your entire life. It's the ride everyone will ask if you went on when you return from vacation. It's the song that will be stuck in your head forever. But, it's also a rite of passage. Every first-timer must take a trip on this boat ride featuring more than 300 audio-animatronics. You might be surprised just how much you enjoy this ride, or you might realize you never want to ride it again.

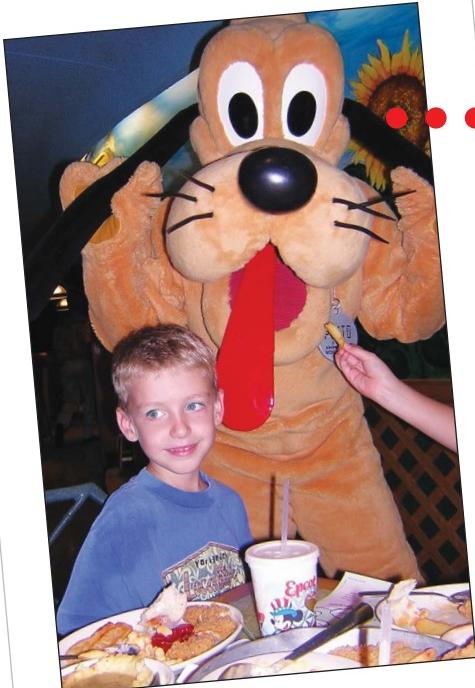
# 8

## Eat a Mickey Ice Cream Bar

It's a proven scientific fact there are no calories in any foods at Walt Disney World. None! Most people who make their first trip do not realize this little piece of Disney magic, thus they will pass up ice cream cart after ice cream cart. I'm here to tell you, don't hesitate in indulging yourself with this famous treat. Sure, it's not much different than the chocolate covered vanilla ice cream bars you can buy at your local grocery store, but there's something about that first one that will keep you going back for more. (Editor's Note: Weight gain complaints should go directly to Skipper Ben.)



PHOTO BY MEGAN BARROW



# 7

## Enjoy a Character Meal

Have you ever wanted to eat with rodents, bears, dogs or Tiggers (not a typo) walking around you? Well, you can do that at Disney World. Park veterans know that by paying a little bit of a premium, you can enjoy a great meal and meet some of Disney's most popular characters while avoiding really long lines in the parks. Character meals are a must if you are traveling with children. From eating with the princesses in Cinderella Castle to enjoying Mickey waffles with the Fab 5 at the Contemporary, the dining options are vast, but they can book up quick. So go prepared and reserve your character dining option well in advance of your trip.



# 6

## 'Yo Ho Yo Ho, A Pirate's Life For Me'

There honestly might not be a bigger "must do" ride than Pirates of the Caribbean. Once you get on that boat and start slowly sailing through the caves that start you on your journey, it will only take a first timer a few seconds to realize Disney attractions operate on another level than your standard amusement park attractions back home. Start with Pirates, then branch out to similar attractions such as The Haunted Mansion, Spaceship Earth and The Great Movie Ride, and you'll appreciate the theming, storytelling and innovation that Disney is famous for.

## Pace Yourself ... There Be Fireworks Ahead

It's really easy to get up early every morning, go to every Extra Magic Hour, be there for every rope drop, but most first-timers don't realize just how much walking goes along with these long days. And while the lines might be short in the morning, you might be worn out before dark, when the parks have some of their best entertainment with their nightly fireworks shows. You won't want to miss Wishes at the Magic Kingdom, IllumiNations at Epcot or Fantasmic at Disney's Hollywood Studios. If you have to take a mid-day break and rest up, do so, because you will not want to miss the way the Disney parks cap off the night.



# 4

## Buy Mickey Ears

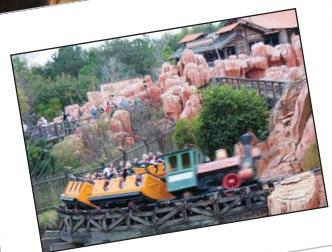
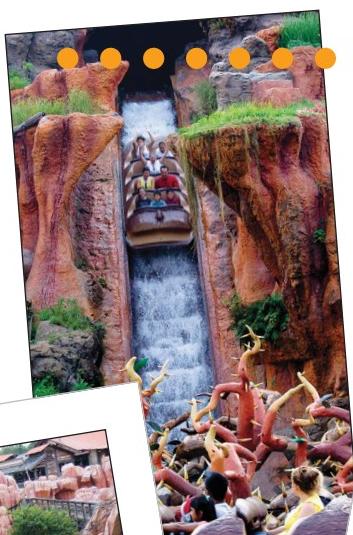
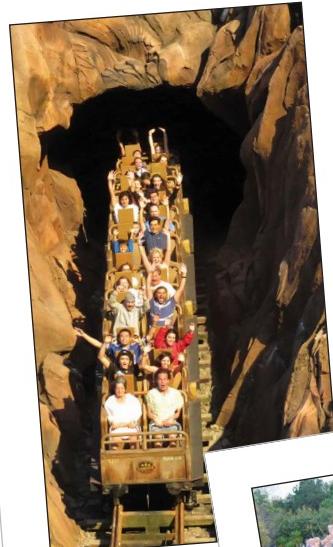
Seriously, they may look silly, and you might have made fun of friends who bought them on their vacations, but for newbies, buying Mickey Ears is a must. There's no better way to forget about the outside world and connect with your inner child than by putting on a good, old-fashioned pair of black Mickey ears. These also make great commemorative keepsakes to remember your first trip. And for little ones (ok, yourself too), be sure to pay the extra to have your name stitched on the back. Don't worry about looking foolish; you will be far from the only person in the park sporting these little beauties.

# 3

## Conquer the Disney Mountain Range

There are so many attractions that most first-timers will feel overwhelmed and will leave without doing everything they wanted. But, there are four attractions that, if you conquer them, you will end your trip with a surefire smile on your face. It's the Disney mountain range consisting of Space Mountain, Splash Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain, and don't forget Expedition Everest. These four attractions are Disney at its best. There's

a reason their lines are long and it's difficult to get FastPass reservations for them. If you leave with these rides under your belt, you can consider your first WDW trip a success.



# 1



# 2



## Have Fun!

Your first trip can be very intimidating. You will have friends and family members saying you have to ride this ride or you have to eat at this place. You'll read a ton of guide books. You'll flip back through every issue of "Orlando Attractions Magazine" and watch all of our videos on YouTube. Hopefully, you'll even take a piece of advice or two from one of my columns. But, buried under all of this planning is one amazing trip — one that can fly by in the blink of an eye if you aren't careful. Don't stress if you don't get to do everything you wanted to do. Always remember, you are on vacation and you should be enjoying yourself. So, when in doubt, slow down, take a deep breath, let it all sink in and have a great time!



**Skipper Ben** is a former Walt Disney World cast member. He worked at Jungle Cruise, Muppet\*Vision 3D and as a producer for Radio Disney. He now resides in Dallas, Texas, with his wife Lisa (also a former cast member) and daughters Abigail Lily and Alayna Iris.

**Do you agree with Ben or have a suggestion for a future Top 10?**

Let us know at [info@attractionsmagazine.com](mailto:info@attractionsmagazine.com)

## Meet The Mouse

"I only hope that we never lose sight of one thing, that it was all started by a mouse." Most Walt Disney World fans know this famous Walt quote by heart, but newbies might not be as familiar. When surrounded by four theme parks, two water parks, a huge shopping district, golf courses, lakes and more hotels than you can possibly imagine, it's easy to forget that without Mickey Mouse, you might not be having the vacation of a lifetime. So when you get the chance, be sure to stop in and give your thanks to the mouse, and be sure to get a picture and autograph while you are at it. It's the best souvenir you could possibly take home.





# Never Been to Walt Disney World?

## It's Never Too Late for the First Time

By Julie Saunders

Photos by Julie Saunders and C. Furr

**F**or a lot of children, their first trip to a Disney park is a rite of passage. But what if this opportunity did not present itself until adulthood? Do theme parks have what it takes to enthrall adults? Would pixie-dust still be magical to a more worldly first-time visitor? That's what Christine Furr, of Charlotte, N.C., set out to discover when she booked her very first trip to Walt Disney World, at age 44.

When asked why a trip to Disney came comparatively late in life, Christine explained, "We didn't have a lot of money growing up, so vacations were limited to visiting relatives at the beach." Her upcoming birthday provided the perfect reason to treat herself to a long overdue introduction to Mickey Mouse and friends. "I woke up one morning and decided to do it," declared Furr, "I'm going to Walt Disney World!"

Trip research began with consulting her friend and traveling partner on dates, resorts and restaurants. Armed with insightful information, and the name of a travel agency that specializes in Disney, she selected Disney's Port Orleans Resort for its central location and transportation options. "The boat to Downtown Disney gave Disney's Port Orleans Resort an advantage, since I knew I wanted to go there at night," stated Furr. Upon arrival, Christine was delighted with the décor of her royal room, saying, "The fireworks in the headboards were fantastic!"

Fireworks in the headboards provide a special dose of magic in the Royal Rooms at Disney's Port Orleans Resort.



Christine Furr, of Charlotte, N.C., posing in front of Cinderella Castle at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom.

# DAY ONE:

## Epcot

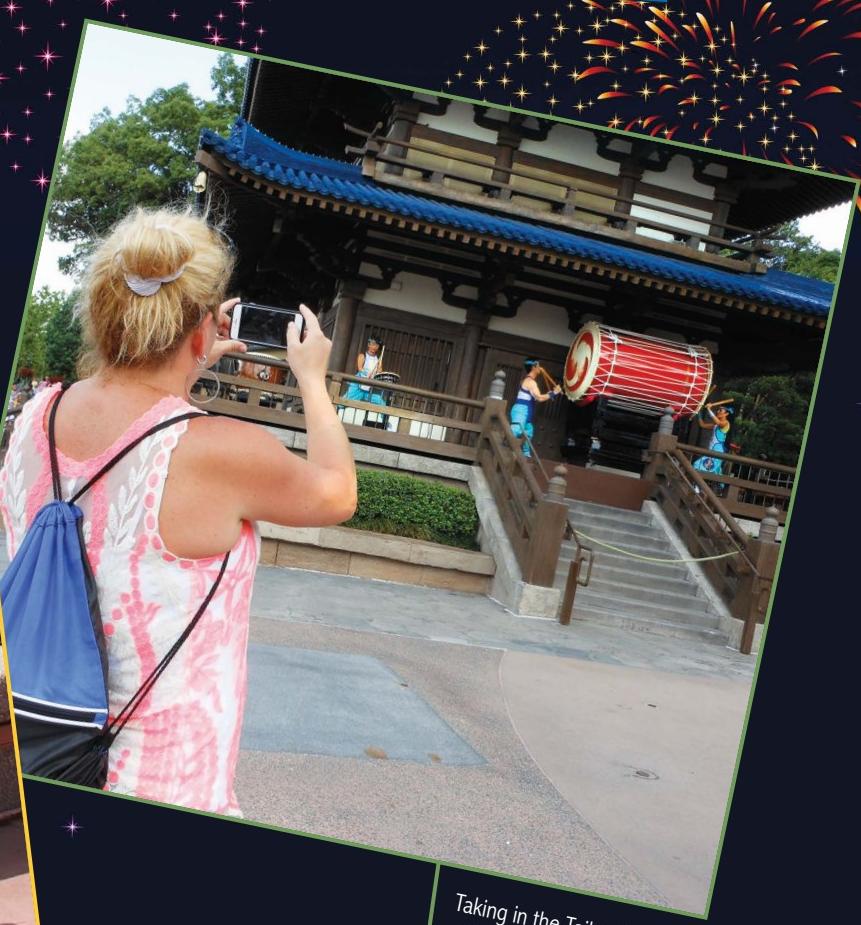
Having arrived midday, Furr and her friend headed to Epcot, which was offering Extra Magic Hours that evening. "We used MyMagic+ to make advance FastPass ride reservations online, so we knew which parks we would visit in advance, plus what time to go to the attractions we had reserved," said Furr. Rather than feeling restricted by the reservations, Furr felt relaxed. "Since we used FastPass, we wandered around, exploring and taking pictures until time for each reservation," Furr observed.

Not having traveled abroad, Furr was especially impressed with Epcot's World Showcase. "The different architecture, food, drinks, music and cast members in each country were so distinctive; it felt like really being in Germany, Japan, etc.," said Furr. After sampling the delights at most of the World Showcase countries, it was time to head back to Future World for FastPass reservations on Soarin', Spaceship Earth and Character Spot. Being a car enthusiast, Furr made certain to experience Test Track, but the best was yet to come.

As night fell, the opening spiel for IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth boomed over the park's loudspeakers. Furr watched the laser and fireworks show from the massive Torii gate in Japan and was blown away by the experience. "The way the lasers and lights synchronized to the fireworks and music was amazing," exclaimed Furr, "I'd never seen anything like it before!"



Christine arriving at her first ever Disney theme park: Epcot.



Taking in the Taiko drummers at Epcot's Japan pavilion.

## DAY TWO:



That face! Christine's reaction after being tricked into her first taste of Beverly at Epcot's Club Cool.



Jedi Mickey starring in Legends of the Force Motorcade during Star Wars Weekends at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

## Hollywood Studios

During pre-trip planning, Christine noticed Star Wars Weekends on Walt Disney World's website, so she asked for additional information and purchased the Feel the Force premium package, which provided reserved parade and fireworks viewing, plus VIP dessert party.

After picking up Feel the Force credentials and meeting up with a local friend, it was time to drop in on The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror. Based on standard drop-zone rides found at amusement parks, the attraction at Disney's Hollywood Studios tells a story, enhanced with strong theming, props, special effects and "delightfully creepy bellhop cast members," described Furr. Afterwards, the Furr party headed to the reserved parade section for prime viewing of Legends of the Force: Star Wars Celebrity Motorcade.

A wall of white-clad Stormtroopers led the parade, followed by traditional Star Wars characters, like Chewbacca and R2-D2, plus Disney characters dressed for the occasion, such as Jedi Mickey and Princess Leia Minnie. In keeping with the moment, next up was Star Tours. "I loved the 3D simulator ride and was surprised when my photo appeared, identifying me as the Rebel Spy," laughed Furr.

Next up was Toy Story Mania, which turned out to be Furr's favorite attraction in all of Walt Disney World. "Toy Story Mania was so much fun," said Furr. "I loved the different games and got the highest score out of our group," she crowed.

After lunch at Sci-Fi Dine-In, it was decided to return to the resort for a refreshing swim. The midday dip was such a hit, it became a daily event. Furr cited this as a must do, saying, "Taking a break at the pool made a world of difference in my stamina and relaxation. The parks are very stimulating, so it was nice to chill out for a while and then go back for another round of fun."

Heading back into Disney's Hollywood Studios, Furr rode her first inversion coaster, Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Aerosmith. "The launch was a rush and the loops were super fun," exclaimed Furr. "The onboard music was awesome – another first for me," she added.

Soon it was time for the Feel the Force VIP dessert party and Symphony in the Stars fireworks. "There was a large selection of desserts and adult beverages included," said Furr. DJ Lobot pumped out dance music, followed by the Summon the Force pre-show until time for the fireworks, set to a Star Wars-inspired score. Furr observed, "The dessert party was great, but the location was too close to the fireworks, which were partially obscured by The Great Movie Ride."



## DAY THREE:

### Magic Kingdom

Furr admitted to not knowing what to expect at the Magic Kingdom. "My friends at home insisted that the Magic Kingdom was for little kids," said Furr. "I didn't know what to expect, but I knew it would be beautiful – and I was right." As Furr stepped onto Main Street USA, she stopped and stared at Cinderella Castle in child-like awe. "It's better than I imagined – like being in a fairy tale," gushed Furr.

After taking photos, it was time to head toward the first FastPass reservation of the day: Space Mountain. "I'd only ridden roller coasters at outdoor amusement parks or fairs before coming to Walt Disney World," worried Furr. Imagine her delight (or fright) when the cast member directed Furr to the front row of the ride vehicle. "I'd never ridden in the front row of any roller coaster, so being front row for the first time and on a dark ride was a little scary at first, and then completely thrilling," pronounced Furr.

While in Tomorrowland, Furr rode Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin, Carousel of Progress and Tomorrowland Transit Authority. Born after the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, Furr was unaware of Carousel of Progress's history. Upon exiting, Furr remarked,

### First Timer Furr's Top Tips:

- Use MyMagic+ and FastPass+ to reserve rides and attractions in advance.
- Don't be in a rush: look around, take pictures, meet characters – be a kid again.
- Talk to cast members – they are super nice and happy to offer information.
- Use the single rider line when available to save time.
- Take a midday break – it's a vacation, not an endurance test.

Christine conquered Space Mountain at the Magic Kingdom.



Beauty and the Beast twirl to their song in the music box room at Be Our Guest restaurant in the Magic Kingdom.

"Carousel of Progress is very sweet in how it showed one family through the years and how modern appliances, advances in transportation, etc., benefited their lives."

After checking in on 999 happy haunts and dodging spray on Splash Mountain, it was time for lunch at Be Our Guest, only something went wrong. "We got stuck on Splash Mountain, so we were late for our lunch reservation at Be Our Guest and were turned away since they close between lunch and dinner," bemoaned Furr. Noticing her disappointment, a cast member approached her and asked if there was anything he could do to help. After Furr explained the situation, the cast member called a manager who offered Furr and her party an early dinner reservation at 4 p.m. "I was so grateful to the cast member for making some magic happen for us," enthused Furr.

It turned out to be an amazing experience for all. "The décor is breathtaking, with huge chandeliers in the main dining room and a life-sized twirling Belle and Beast in the Music Box room, where we were seated," said Furr. After dinner there were photos with Beast, who was quite impressive up close, as Furr described, "He was huge!" Furr stopped by Guest Services to file a com-

ment card, formally thanking the cast member who created a second chance to dine at Be Our Guest. "It was my favorite restaurant by far, so I wanted to be sure it was noted that the only reason we were able to experience it was due to the efforts of one special cast member," explained Furr.

Nighttime entertainment included the Main Street Electrical Parade and Wishes, one viewed inside the park and the other outside. "We saw the Main Street Electrical Parade on our way out of Magic Kingdom, which was awesome, since we were leaving for a bit to experience Trader Sam's Grog Grotto and watch Wishes from the beach at Disney's Polynesian Resort," Furr explained.

Trader Sam's Grog Grotto lived up to the hype. It is clever and kitschy, with strong theming and constant cast member interaction. "My friend is short, so when she remarked about how high the bar stools were, she soon found herself sinking, lower and lower until her bar stool was more like a step stool," recounted Furr. "I thought it was very funny and the bartender even joined two long straws together so she could reach her drink while nearly sitting on the floor," Furr said with a laugh.



Christine and friends lucked into a prime viewing spot for the Main Street Electrical Parade at Magic Kingdom.

## DAY FOUR:

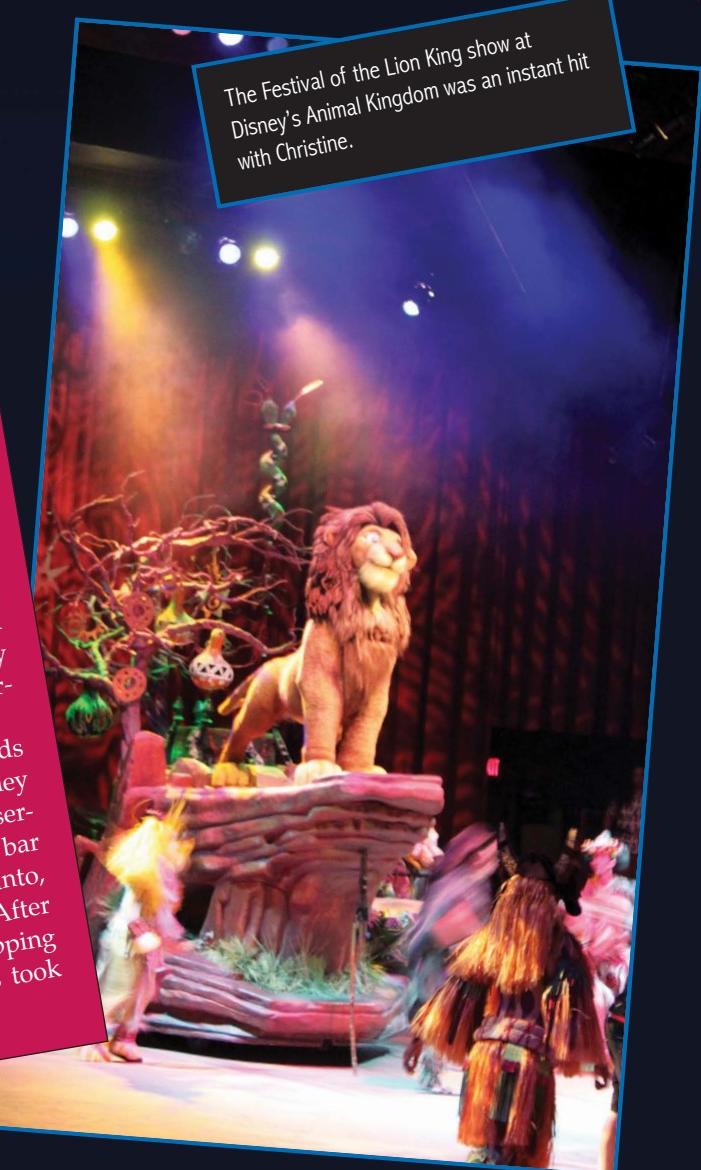
### Disney's Animal Kingdom and Downtown Disney

After filling her eyes with Discovery Island and the Tree of Life, Furr headed to Expedition Everest where her friends directed her to the single rider line. "The stand-by wait time was over 30 minutes and we wanted to see the first performance of Festival of the Lion King, so we entered the single rider line where we waited less than 10 minutes," Furr said. As for the ride experience, Furr was floored, saying, "When we came around the corner and the track was torn up, I wondered what was going on and then the train went backwards, which was also unexpected, but really fun!"

As for the remainder of the day, Furr was enthralled by the animals on Kilimanjaro Safaris, took a ride on Kali River Rapids, and explored Dinoland U.S.A. "I loved everything, especially Festival of the Lion King, which was very entertaining," said Furr.

After the daily pool break, Furr and friends took the boat from her resort to Downtown Disney to dine at The Boathouse. "We didn't have a reservation, but managed to get a table at the back bar where we watched the Amphicars drive into, around, and back out of the lake," said Furr. After an evening of dancing to live music and shopping for souvenirs, the tired but happy travelers took the boat back to Port Orleans Resort.

The Festival of the Lion King show at Disney's Animal Kingdom was an instant hit with Christine.



## First Timer Furr's Favorites:

- **Favorite Ride:** Toy Story Mania – it was so much fun!
- **Favorite Show:** Festival of the Lion King – amazing dancers, singers and acrobats.
- **Favorite Nighttime Entertainment:** IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth – so moving!
- **Favorite Character:** Goofy, because he's so tall. I tow-ered over Mickey and Minnie.
- **Favorite Adult Venue:** Trader Sam's Grog Grotto – so fun and great interactions.

Christine cuddles up to her favorite Disney character, Goofy.

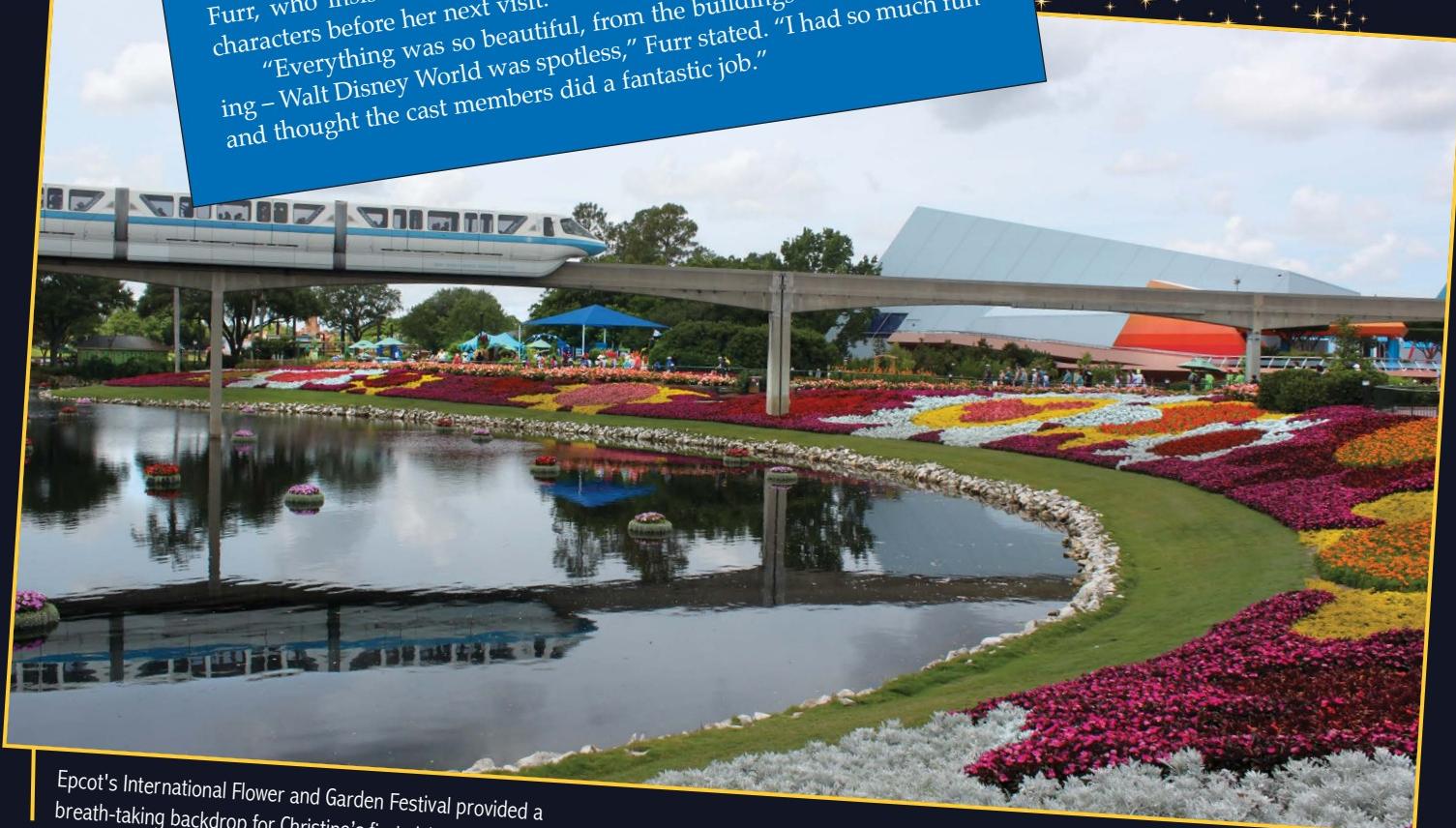


## Final Thoughts

Reflecting on her first, but not last, visit to Walt Disney World, Furr summed up her experiences.

"Since my children are older, I had not kept up with Disney movies, so I didn't recognize some of the more recent characters," confessed Furr, who insisted she would get caught up on Disney movies and characters before her next visit.

"Everything was so beautiful, from the buildings to the landscaping – Walt Disney World was spotless," Furr stated. "I had so much fun and thought the cast members did a fantastic job."



Epcot's International Flower and Garden Festival provided a breath-taking backdrop for Christine's first visit.

# Colorful Play at the New

In today's world of fast-paced technology, it is hard to believe children (and many adults) still enjoy the simple pleasure of coloring with crayons. Crayola, a company synonymous with crafting crayons and creativity for over a century, has tapped into the generations-long love affair with coloring and developed a 21st century experience that effortlessly combines old-school arts and crafts with modern age technological advances.

Known as the Crayola Experience, the family-friendly attraction opened in The Florida Mall on July 1. Only one other Crayola Experience location currently exists. It's in Easton, Penn., the birthplace of Crayola crayons.

It's hard not to take notice of the new Crayola Experience.

The two-story, 70,000-

square-foot activity center has a brightly colored facade splashed with primary colors. Crayola crayon characters are literally climbing the walls, crayons are "falling" from the roof and larger-than-life markers and crayons make for excellent backdrops for unique photos.

"What's so fantastic about Crayola Experience Orlando is that this is a place where families come together and create, not just play," said Kelly-Anne Suarez, assistant manager of communications at Crayola Experience.

The Crayola company has more than 1,500 proprietary products and technologies that have changed the way kids play since it started producing crayons in 1903, selling an eight-count box of colors for just a nickel. (The same eight colors are still sold in an eight-count box today: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, brown, violet and black)

The new attraction, which is located in the old Nordstrom's store, is expected to draw more than 400,000 visitors a year.

Inside the climate-controlled experience, there are 25 hands-on interactive



A shower of confetti marks the official grand opening of the Crayola Experience in Orlando, the second location in the world.



# Crayola Experience

By Kimberly Button

attractions for kids of all ages. Adults seem to have just as much fun as the children, feeling like a kid again by scribbling on a piece of paper as the familiar scent of crayons hangs in the air.

It's no mistake that the scent of Crayola crayons can bring back memories of childhood. "That scent is the 18th most recognizable scent in the world," said Suarez. "It's so iconic. We're five generations strong. So if you're 2 years old or if you're 92, you know and love Crayola."

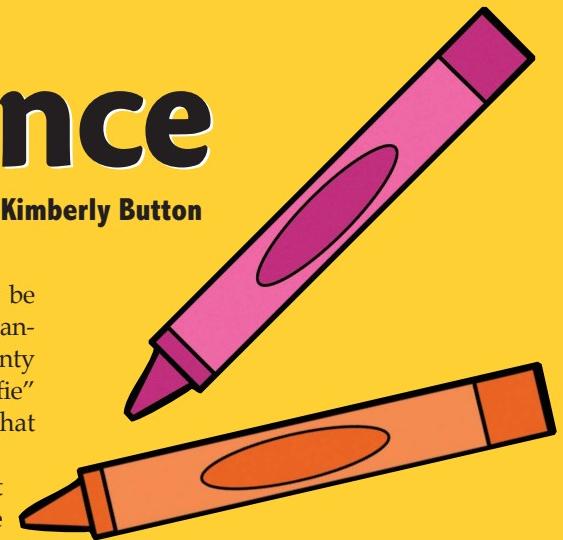
Crayola Experience has seamlessly incorporated their 112-year long history with modern day favorites to create an experience that appeals to both grandchildren and grandparents. Vintage marketing campaigns and huge replicas of Crayola crayon boxes from decades gone by are used as artwork throughout the space.

Vintage Crayola merchandise can also be purchased on site. Yet computerized scanners, digital interactive screens and plenty of experiences created for taking a "selfie" easily blend in to create a space that appeals to everyone.

"Our attraction is one that we want families to come, to play and to create together. It's so fantastic to see families coming together across the table, spanning generations, and naming and wrapping their own crayon," said Suarez.

While the Crayola Experience is a unique place for families to come to have fun together, it's also an excellent opportunity for Crayola to introduce more of its wealth of creativity products to a market with plenty of kids.

"If you look at the demographics of the number of young families in that



(Orlando) market, it's terrific. It's one of the best young-family markets in the country," said Mike Perry, CEO of Crayola, in an interview with the "Orlando Sentinel".

"It's an opportunity for people to experience a lot of the products that, frankly, you don't get to see in a Wal-Mart or Target or something," Perry went on to say.

While Crayola Experience is certainly hoping to tap into the millions of tourists that visit the city each year, those that live





A wall of crayons is a focal point of the 6,000-square-foot store located in The Florida Mall.



You Design, an Orlando exclusive, gives guests the chance to design race cars.



Elisa Goldman, cohost of "Orlando Attractions Magazine – The Show", becomes part of a coloring page at Be a Star. Watch the July 2nd episode of The Show from Crayola Experience.

you're actually going to create an outfit or a car and see it turn on the race track or walk the runway." Scribble Square, where kids can draw on items such as cars and color on the floor, is another Orlando exclusive attraction.

With so many activities available, all of which can be enjoyed at your own pace, the average length of stay at Crayola Experience Orlando is four to five hours.

Among the 25 hands-on attractions are:

### Wrap it Up

Pick a color, choose a name and create your own crayon. Type a combination of letters or symbols that will be printed on an iconic Crayola crayon wrapper. Bring the wrapper and a crayon to the wrapping station for a personalized souvenir. (Note: A Crayola coin is needed for this attraction. Two coins are given to each person with admission. Extra coins are .50 cents each.)

### Color Magic

First, you'll create a design the old-school way, using crayons to color in characters such as a fairy or a dragon on a piece of paper. Then bring the paper to a scanning station, and suddenly your design comes to life in 4D on the screen. There is even an option to take a digital selfie with your colored character and send it via email.

### Be a Star

Turn yourself into a coloring page character with this fun photo booth that puts you on the page with Crayola characters, and then prints out a black and white sheet for coloring.

### Crayon Factory

Watch wax become Crayola crayons right in front of your eyes in this live theater show using old Crayola factory machinery. A Crayonologist explains the entire process, from melting to boxing, along with video clips and kid-friendly narration from two animated crayon friends, Scarlet and Turk (Turquoise).

### Rainbow Rain

Dance in front of a digital screen and watch as colorful dripping "wax" rains

down upon your image, moving and changing as you wave your body and hands below.

### You Design

Create a car or a fashion design, then see it on the big screen in front of you, as cars zoom along a race course and fashion items digitally walk the runway. Pose for a selfie beside the digital car, or "try on" your fashion design.

### Melt & Mold

Crayons are melted down and shaped into designs of your choice, including a race car or a ring that can be worn on your finger.

### Drip Art

A childhood favorite for generations, see what kind of unique color combos and designs you can create as a melted Crayola crayon drips onto a spinning piece of paper.

### Meltdown

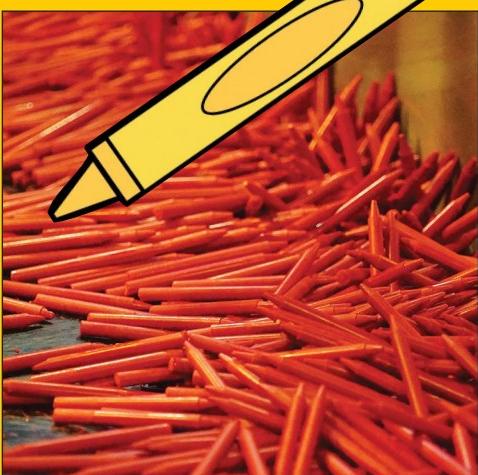
The aroma of melted crayon wax hangs very heavy in the air here, where bins of liquid crayons are available for "painting" on paper.

### Art Alive!

Similar to the Animation Magic experience in the Animator's Palette restaurant on Disney Cruise Line ships, this interactive room lets you create a work of art at a computer screen, and then watch it appear on the wall as part of a bigger scene of animation that is constantly changing. Go up and touch your work of art and it will come to life.



Kids can only sit still for so long, so Stomp and Play is a welcome activity.



A Crayonologist makes the iconic Crayola crayons in a live stage show each day.



Modern technology integrates with old-fashioned coloring to bring creations to life on the big screen at You Design.



Art Alive! showcases a rotating display of colorful creations as they are designed in real time. Touching the designs on the massive screen will bring them to life.



Unique photo ops, inside and out, are just part of the fun when visiting the Crayola Experience.

Modeling Madness is just one of the 25 hands-on activities found throughout the colorful and spacious Crayola Experience.

### **Color Playground**

Ideal for little ones that can't sit still to color any longer, this crayon-themed two-story playground lets kids burn off some energy.

### **Doodle in the Dark**

Enter this darkened room and use neon-colored markers to draw on backlit doodle boards or play on interactive floor games that respond to your movements.

### **Cool Moves**

Become a Crayola character on a big screen as Tip, a Crayola crayon character, mimics your every move.

### **Say "Crayola!"**

Pose for pictures with a gigantic crayon in a green screen photo booth with plenty of Crayola creativity. (An additional fee applies)

### **Modeling Madness**

Use Crayola Model Magic to mold and shape designs of your choosing. Individual colors are purchased in a vending machine. (Note: A Crayola coin is needed for this attraction. Two coins are given to each person with admission. Extra coins are .50 cents each.)

### **Paint Palette**

An arts and crafts area, this attraction goes beyond just coloring to use scissors

and paste to cut out templates and create fun projects exploring themes that change throughout the year.

### **Stomp & Play**

An interactive floor where kids can stomp on moving objects.

### **Scribble Square**

Perhaps the only place where you won't be yelled at for coloring on the walls or even on the dog! Kids can break all the rules and draw on the floors and walls with chalk, or use dry-erase markers to color on objects such as a house, car and tree.

### **Toddler Town**

This is where the youngest children can play, with a smaller Pip-squeak Playground and a Light Board that looks like a gigantic Lite-Brite.

### **Puzzle It!**

Draw your very own design, then make it a puzzle by pushing it through rolling puzzle makers to create a six- or 12-piece puzzle.

### **Colossal Caddy**

With more crayons than you could possibly imagine, this coloring station offers pages to decorate, with the thousands of crayons spilling out of the circular caddy.

When spending a half day at the



Shop one of the largest collections of Crayola merchandise in the U.S. at the retail store. You don't have to pay to enter the store.



Thousands of crayons spill out of the Colossal Caddy, a perfect spot for coloring Crayola's pages.

Crayola Experience, it is easy to work up an appetite. Thankfully, Cafe Crayola is located inside, with family-friendly foods, such as hot dogs, pizza, salads and sandwiches. A Family Meal Deal, with a 16" pizza and four fountain beverages, is \$24.99. Cafe Shows are offered periodically, explaining the science and history behind varied Crayola products in a stage located adjacent to the cafe.

Guests are allowed to exit and enter all day long with a ticket, allowing the perfect opportunity to explore The Florida Mall for a meal or to go shopping, and return hours later for extended play.

Of course, no Orlando attraction is complete without exiting into a gift shop, and the Crayola Experience has a massive 6,000-square-foot store at the exit. The Crayola Store is also available to guests without admission, via a mall entrance. With one of the largest selections of Crayola products in the country, including plush toys, apparel, art supplies and souvenirs, it is a destination in its own right, so make sure to spend some time browsing.

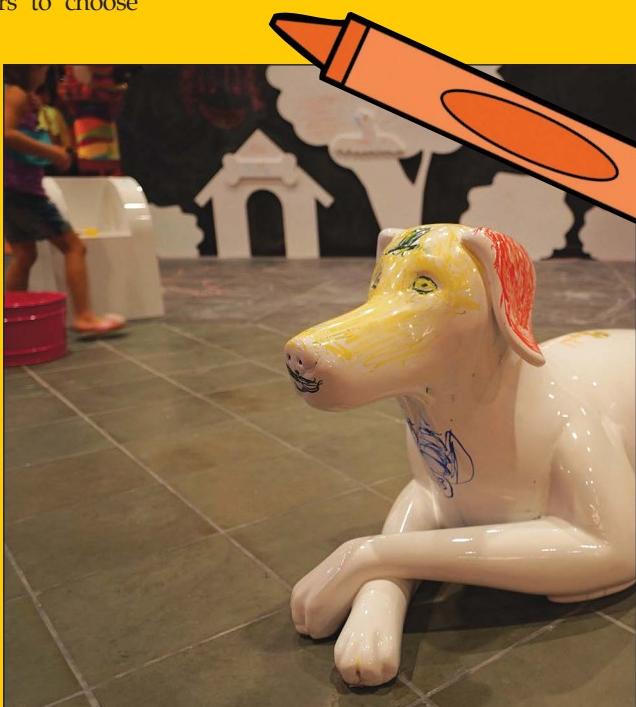
A can't-miss favorite of the Crayola

Experience store is the "Pick Your Pack" wall, with an overwhelming choice of 99 of Crayola's most popular colors to choose from to make a customized crayon pack.

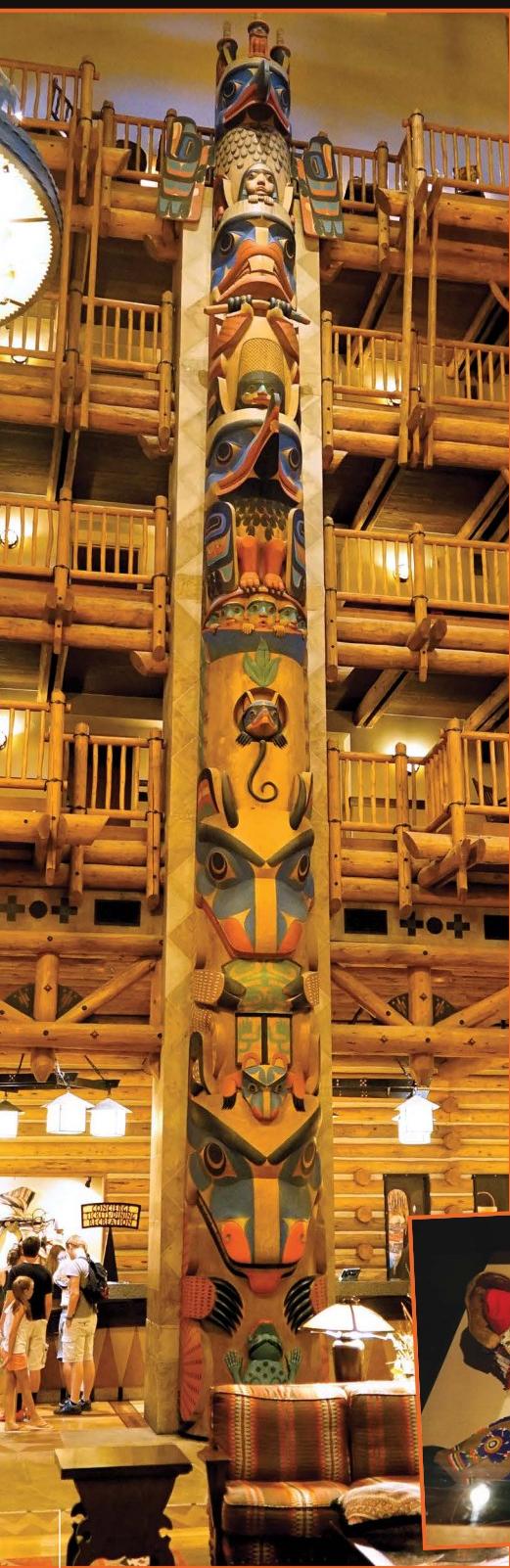
Can't decide? Why not choose the Florida-themed 96-count Crayola crayon pack, only available in Orlando, with crayon colors such as Mango Tango, Pink Flamingo and Manatee. Another unique take-away from the Crayola Experience Orlando store is creating a customized two-pound crayon.

Geared towards kids, it comes as no surprise that birthday party rooms are built into the Crayola Experience. The private spaces are perfect for a child's party, a scouting event or even a family reunion. Party packages

include food, attraction admissions and an appearance by TIP the Crayon.



Drawing on a dog is perfectly acceptable at Scribble Square, exclusive to Orlando.



This 55-foot-tall cedar totem pole was painstakingly hand-carved by artist Duane Pasco and three assistants over a period of many months.



William Robertson's realistic brass animal sculptures are set waist high at the check-in counter to greet younger guests.

## Disney Details:

# THE ART OF DISNEY'S WILDERNESS LODGE

By Jim Korkis

**W**hile Disney fans often think of artists solely in terms of Disney animated films, Disney's Wilderness Lodge Resort is a prime showcase of the work of several talented craftsmen.

Peter Dominick Jr., who headed the Urban Design Group of Denver, Colo., and was an avid outdoorsman, was commissioned to design the upscale resort by CEO Michael Eisner. Dominick's primary inspirations for the Wilderness Lodge were clearly the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park and the Ahwahnee Lodge in Yosemite National Park that are referenced in the final design.

"(Disney's Wilderness Lodge) does, in fact, capture the spirit and sense of place one associates with our national parks, icons of our American her-

itage ... with their art, architecture and dramatic landscapes," stated Dominick.

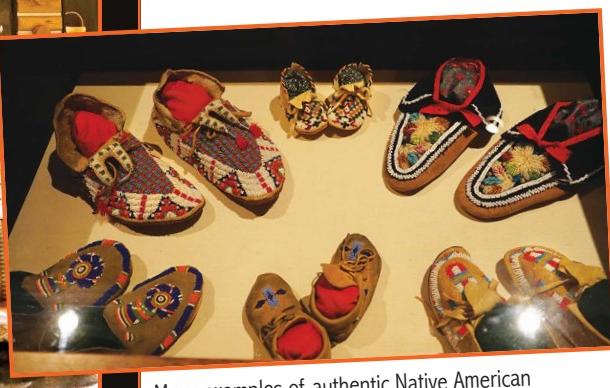
This style was known as "rustic architecture". The concept was that art, architecture and landscape should be fully integrated in the design and construction of the building.

Dominick set out to create a log hotel reminiscent of the early 1900s in the Northwest Rockies, incorporating authentic Native American elements, natural lightning and wherever possible, actual building material like limestone.

Eighty-five loads of lodge pole pines were harvested from "standing dead forests" (where the tree had been killed from a natural cause such as insects) in Oregon and Montana to build the resort. No living trees were chopped down to create the lodge poles. Stretched end to end, they would span 40 miles long.

The wood floor in the lobby is composed of Brazilian cherry, white oak, birdseye maple and burl walnut. Only the rockwork was fabricated using gunite, the same material often used in outdoor swimming pools. Real rocks were used to create a series of molds for the cement that was later spray painted to look like granite or sandstone.

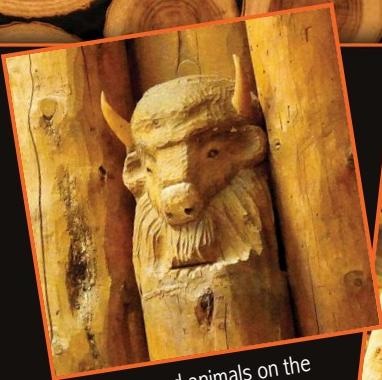
Dominick went on to also design the equally majestic Animal Kingdom Lodge at Disney's Animal Kingdom and Disney's Grand Californian resort at Disneyland Resort. Dominick passed away at the age of 67 in 2009.



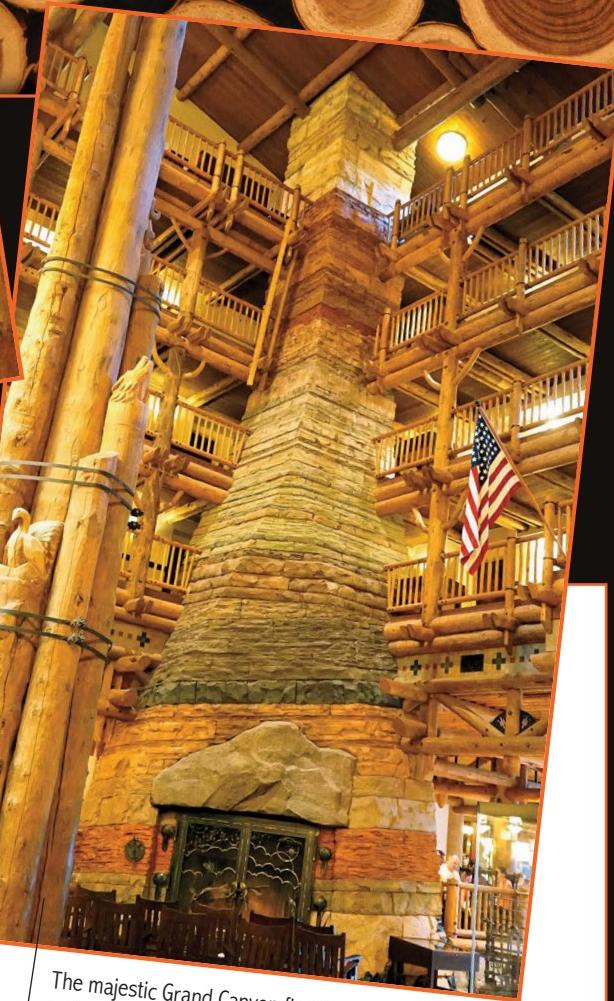
Many examples of authentic Native American craftsmanship are on display in the lobby, including these colorful beaded footware.



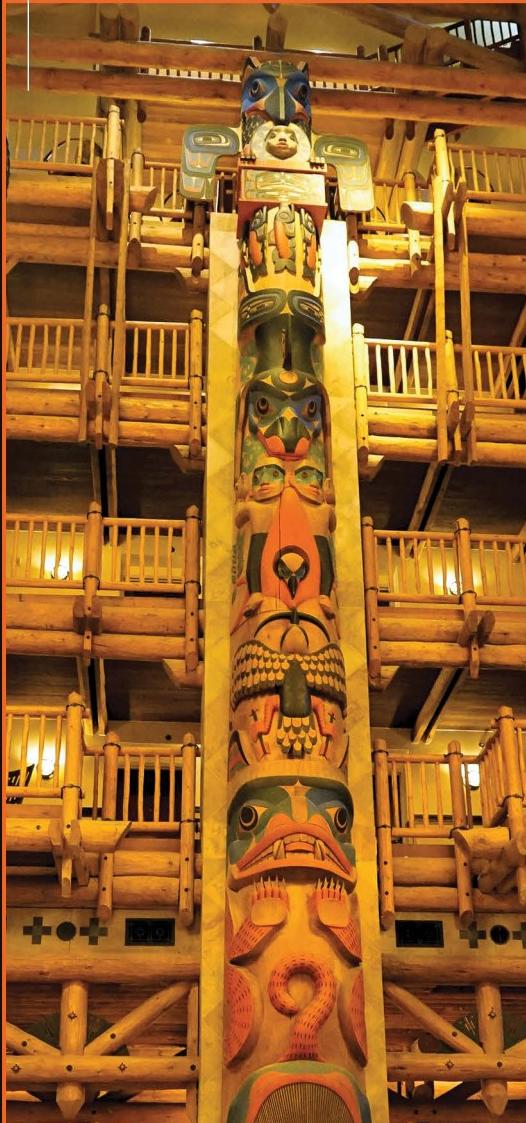
This totem pole tells the elaborate legend of a little wren who wed the whale chief's (visible at the very bottom) daughter and their adventures.



Sixteen carved animals on the lobby lodge poles represent the four different levels inhabited by animals.



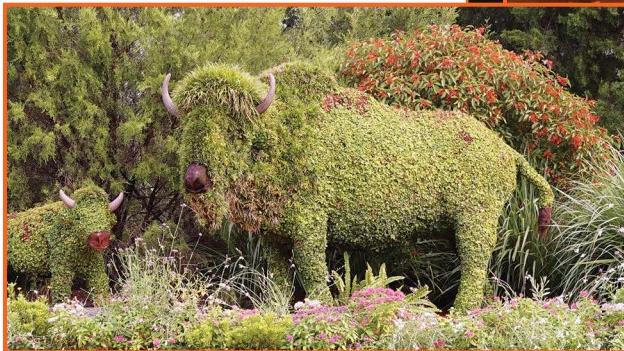
The majestic Grand Canyon fireplace stands 82 feet tall, replicating the different strata of the actual canyon, and is an actual working fireplace.



Dominick's work at the Wilderness Lodge was enhanced by other artists like William Robertson. Robertson was a Disney character sculptor before becoming self-employed. Walt Disney World hired him to build frames for topiaries, which he did in the backyard of his College Park, Fla. home. One of those topiaries is the 14-foot-long bison out in front of the entrance of the resort. Robertson was also responsible for many topiaries in the Johnny Depp movie, "Edward Scissorhands".

Bundled in the lobby poles of the lobby are numerous carvings by Robertson, showing the four levels of animal life living in the wilderness. On the lowest level, you find creatures of the field and meadows, such as a turkey, raccoon, squirrel and rabbit. The animals on the next level are those

on the lower mountain, such as the wolf, pronghorn, bison and elk. On the third are those of the high mountain level, such as the mountain goat, sheep, bear and mountain lion. The highest level has the birds of prey, such as the



This 14-foot-long bison topiary stands vigilant outside the entrance of the resort, with her hoof prints embedded in the nearby sidewalk.





falcon, American bald eagle, hawk and owl.

It took four tons of wood to create these creatures. On average, it was 10 days to carve each animal using an electric saw, rotary saw, a chisel and a hammer.

"I had to know how to fit the animals into the trees," Robertson said. "Each animal had to be carved around the limbs, knots and rotten spots. There was no way to change the tree."

Robertson said he wanted to "show the mark of the hands of the artist — not slick, but a rough, human feeling".

Every night during the six months before the hotel's May 28, 1994 Memorial Day opening, Robertson climbed scaffolds to chisel into the pine trees, finally finishing the day before the resort officially opened. His sculpture work can also be seen on the six brass animals at the check-in

desk that were purposely positioned at a children's height, so they could be petted by curious youngsters. The beavers in the elevator holding a long stick that is used as a railing are also the work of the sculptor who at one time worked with Disney Legend Blaine Gibson, renowned for his Disney sculpting.

As a bit of whimsy, Robertson also took months to carve the cedar character totem pole outside the gift shop that features Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Donald Duck and Humphrey the Bear, who was the official mascot of the resort. Robertson had difficulty carving cedar and phoned a fellow sculptor in Oregon who was familiar with that type of wood for advice.

In 1994, the Disney Company hired artist Duane Pasco to carve the two 55-foot-tall totem poles for the lobby. Though not a descendant of Pacific Northwest Indians, Pasco is considered one of the most adept among the handful of Canadian and American master carvers.

"These totem poles measure three feet wide at the top and five feet wide at the bottom, and each is constructed of two 27-foot sections spliced together," Pasco said. "The choice of characters and their placement were the choice of Disney's consultants."

"The goal in designing the totem poles was to use legend and lore that was common among many tribes of the Northwest Coast, but not necessarily specific to any one tribe," wrote Pasco's wife, Katie. It took six months to complete the two poles.

Pasco and his three assistants began cutting away material with chainsaws. For finer details they used adzes, knives and other traditional carving tools. The poles are made from four old-growth red cedars that had to be hollowed out and there was considerable rot inside that had to be removed. Pasco reinforced the centers by splicing in new wood.

Two iconic birds common in most Northwest Native American mythologies, the raven and the eagle, top each of the totem poles in the lobby.

The lobby floor symbolizes the four corners of the earth and is composed of Brazilian cherry, white oak, birdseye maple and burl walnut. The carpets were made by Native American tribes.



After the poles were carved, they were finished with water seal and then painted. The installation took place over five days in January 1994. The poles are flanked by stone walls and tied to steel I-beams.

Stories on a totem pole are read from the bottom to the top. The pole in front of Whispering Canyon Café is known as the Raven Pole. It primarily tells how a little wren won the hand of the daughter of the whale chief in marriage because of his archery skill. The other animals were angered and Hootis, the bear chief and his family went as protectors of the new couple to a small island.

At the very top of the pole is Raven and another version of the famous tale of the trickster bird flying into the sky chief's house where, with his beak, he cleverly untied the double cords and knots that tightly bound a painted box. Opening the lid, Raven lifted out the moon, breaking some of it into chips that became stars in the night sky.

The pole that is in front of the check-in desk is known as the Eagle Pole. It tells the story of the bear chief who plans to give a copper shield guarded by Klukun, the mountain goat, to his nephew at a great feast. At the top of the pole is the Eagle who heard a girl crying far out to sea because she had gone away to marry but grew sad and lonely for her family. Eagle flew out and picked up the girl to take her back to her village. Atop his head sits three small Taan-skeels who are the watchmen for all humans and animals.

The fireplace is an intricate 82-foot-high replica of the Grand Canyon's South Rim strata representing 1.6 billion years. Disney sent paleontologist (and artist) Robert Reid to study the actual walls of the Grand Canyon. His studies were reproduced in a detailed book that was used to help contractors create the fireplace, replete with a kaleidoscope of more than 100 different specific colors.

The fireplace represents the passage

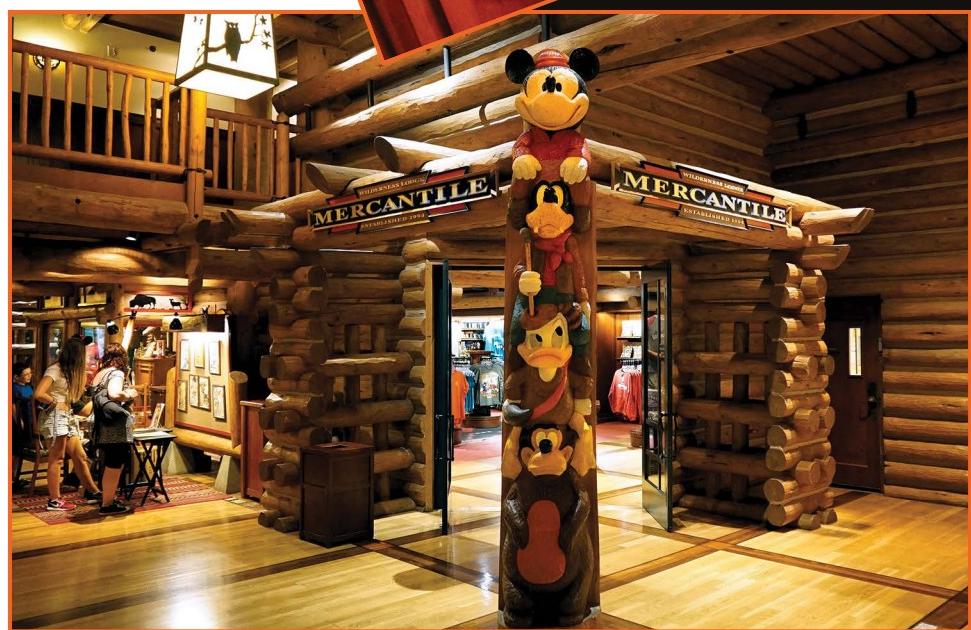
of time it took for the layers of rock to form. The variations are recreated in the same proportions as those that appear in the real Grand Canyon. Samples of elements from each strata are housed in glass display cases near the fireplace on each floor.

As a final touch, the lobby is decorated with displays of authentic Native American artwork from tribes such as the Cheyenne, the Crow, the Sioux and the Blackfoot, that include everything from carpets to footwear and clothes.

Disney's Wilderness Lodge is a wonderful display of the outstanding artistic skills of so many different craftsmen.



Guests are so awed by the overwhelming size of the lobby, they often overlook some whimsical smaller details like the beavers carrying sticks in the elevator.



One of the most distinctive Disney touches is Mickey Mouse and his pioneering friends sitting on the shoulders of Humphrey the Bear, who was originally the mascot of the resort.

# Resort Report



The brand new lobby of Disney's Polynesian Village Resort is now light and bright, and full of whimsical touches like the welcoming Tiki gods, both inside and outside.



# Disney's Polynesian Vision Remains A South Seas Gem

The excitement, quality and all-encompassing theming of Disney's Polynesian Village Resort begins the moment you step out of your car. A warm South Seas welcome and a decorous lei greets every new arrival, letting guests know they are about to embark on a Pacific isles adventure as much as merely staying at a hotel.

Amazingly, it has been the resort's style ever since it first opened its doors in October 1971, and it remains just as fresh

and inviting today, thanks both to the creative minds of Disney's Imagineers and the big 2015 refurbishment that added a Disney Vacation Club (DVC) component, as well as a wealth of other new features and amenities.

Tiki torches, lilting music, wooden longhouse architecture, graceful landscaping and whimsical décor touches all combine to surround visitors with that charming Polynesian vibe, and it is beautifully maintained in every aspect, from the guest rooms to the nightly Spirit

of Aloha Dinner Show in Luau Cove.

Walk into the rebuilt lobby and you immediately notice a lighter and brighter feel from the previous design, which featured an imposing (but bulky and slightly oppressive) waterfall feature. Now, Cinderella Castle is immediately visible through the patio doors and new furniture and artwork are everywhere.

The style is "mid-century-modern Polynesian," which means a slightly retro look and feel, as befits the 1950s, but that doesn't stop the Imagineers from posting several artistic touches that mimic the playful style of classic Disney artist Mary Blair — of 'it's a small world' fame — notably in the lobby's large wall map of the resort.

New landscaping is immediately noticeable through the patio doors, along with one of the resort's new features. The Pineapple Lanai quick-service has been added just to the left through the doors, and provides that essential "taste" of the South Seas, the Dole Whip, available in pineapple, vanilla or a delicious swirl of the two, as well as Pineapple Floats and bottled water.

Beyond the patio, the exten-



More South Seas style is on offer around the grand Lava Pool, the resort's main recreation area, with its free-form pool, kids play area and water slide.

# Resort Report



Another addition is the wonderfully fun lounge-bar of Trader Sam's, featuring signature cocktails, appetizers, fabulous décor and lively animatronics.

sive family Lava Pool and Kiki Tiki's Splash Play area dominate the rear of the resort, offering the main pool with its long volcano water slide and the all-new water playground for children, featuring two slides, wading pools, waterjets and all manner of buckets and splash features. Looking across Seven Seas Lagoon to the Magic Kingdom, you wonder if parents have trouble getting the kids out of Kiki Tiki's for the theme park!

The new Leisure Pool,

which will be a quieter, more relaxing area, is still under construction and is due to open next spring.

Need more family fun? Head for the Seven Seas Marina where you can rent a variety of motorized boats, taking from two to 10 people at a time.

Spread out around the two pools are the resort's 11 accommodation longhouses, all named for various Pacific destinations such as Hawaii, Tonga, Samoa and Pago Pago. Three are now dedicated to DVC



The new crown jewels of the refurbished resort are the Bora Bora Bungalows, 20 over-the-water stilt houses that provide sumptuous accommodations and Magic Kingdom views.

members — converted into beautifully spacious deluxe studios with kitchenettes — along with the sumptuous waterfront Bora Bora Bungalows, the Poly's new crown jewels of fine living and high style. The DVC options are also open to non-members, when available.

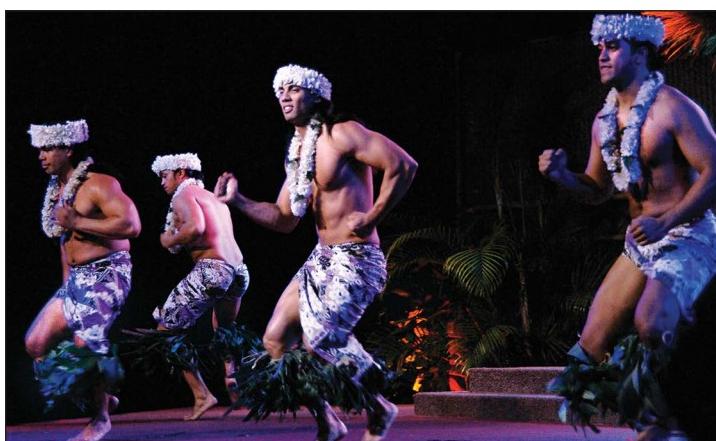
The 20 two-bedroom stilt "houses" are built on a boardwalk over the gently lapping lake waters and boast a magnificent array of features, including patio plunge pool with speakers that relay the music from the nightly Wishes fireworks show, full kitchens, lavish master bedroom — boasting a bathroom mirror with inset TV — washer-dryers and their own gated access. They sleep up to eight using neat pullout beds in both the second bedroom and living room, as well as a sleeper sofa. They are truly a haven-within-a-haven, but non-DVC guests will need to book early to snag one.

The new deluxe studios have been reconfigured to provide split bathrooms (a shower room and separate bath with

toilet), kitchenette area and one queen-sized bed, instead of the usual two, with additional pull-out bed and queen sleeper-sofa. Traditional rooms have two queen beds, bathroom, fridge and coffee-maker, while all rooms benefit from the recent makeover, with fresh new décor and soft furnishings.

When it comes to children's facilities, there is Lilo's Playhouse (formerly the Neverland Club) for kids 3 to 12 at \$15 per child, per hour, and the watery fun of Kiki Tiki's, but no arcade, as this was removed to make way for Trader Sam's Grog Grotto this year. There are games, dance parties and other recreation at the Lava Pool, plus a nightly firepit session and "movies under the stars" on the beach with classic Disney films.

For those in the Disney know, Trader Sam's is simply the place to visit for cocktails and appetizers. Based on the original Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar at the Disneyland Hotel in California, this new version also links to the "Head Salesman" of the



That Polynesian style is all-encompassing, especially with features like the nightly Spirit of Aloha Dinner Show luau.

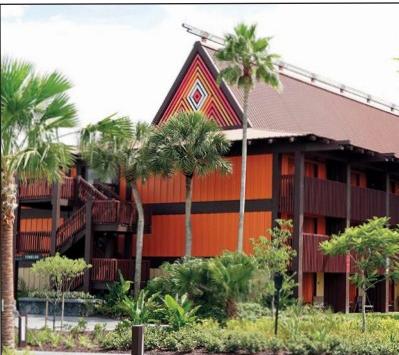
# Disney's Polynesian Village Resort



When it comes to pure relaxation, the Polynesian Village has that covered, with plenty of inviting white-sand beach, loungers, swing seats and great views.

Jungle Cruise ride and is loaded with animatronics and memorabilia that fit the Adventureland theme. Choose various cocktails and the animatronics will react, but beware of upsetting the Tiki Goddess!

It holds a maximum of just 51 guests, hence there is often a wait to get in (from 4 p.m. to midnight; adults only after 8 p.m.), but it has quickly become an iconic location in the Poly's dining lineup. And, if the wait is too long, there is nearly always space on the Tiki Terrace — usually with live musical entertainment — where the same Grotto drinks and food are on offer.



The traditional longhouse buildings have also been fully refreshed.

For counter service, the newly-rejigged Captain Cook's is open 24 hours a day with a tempting variety of sandwiches, salads, tacos and flatbreads, as well as a full breakfast menu with their signature banana-stuffed Tonga Toast, while Kona Island is the specialty coffee bar (6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), which transitions to a sushi bar after 5 p.m.

The big attractions, dining-wise, are the two table-service options of Ohana and Kona Café. At the former, a character breakfast is served from 7:30 to 11 a.m. (featuring Lilo and Stitch and some Polynesian-influenced menu items among traditional American favorites), and a Hawaiian style dinner feast is offered from 5 to 10 p.m., highlighted by their firepit grill and children's games at regular intervals.

By contrast, Kona Café is a rather more adult and sophisticated restaurant, with an Asian-fusion inspired menu and an onstage sushi kitchen for extra culinary pizzaz. It is also open for an a la carte breakfast (7:30

**Location:** 1600 Seven Seas Drive, Walt Disney World  
**Prices Per Night:** **Standard View:** \$452 to \$657;  
**Lagoon View:** \$581 to \$851;  
**Theme Park View:** \$650 to \$891;  
**Club Level:** \$621 to \$1,126;  
**Suites:** \$649 to \$689;  
**Bungalow:** \$3,316 to \$3,382  
**Contact:** 407-939-5277



Even the standard rooms are spacious and inviting, and benefit from the recent makeover with fresh, bright decor and soft furnishings throughout.



There is oceans of space inside the Bora Bora Bungalows, with a dining room table seating eight, living area and full state-of-the-art kitchen.

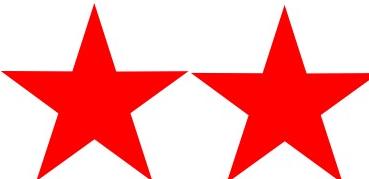
to 11:15 a.m.) and lunch (noon to 2:45 p.m.), as well as dinner (5 to 10 p.m.).

Shopping is equally good here, with the Tiki Boutique providing the main gift shop with a wide array of goods, apparel and souvenirs, while Moana Mercantile, on the sec-

ond floor, adds toys, pins, snacks and sundries.

All in all, it is an enormously varied and impressive lineup that still lives up to its South Seas idyll almost 45 years after it first said "Aloha!" to its guests. And we'll see you at Trader Sam's!

# Table Service



If a Brazilian churrascaria and a funky Route 66 barbecue joint had a baby, it would be American Q. The buffet is served from the flatbed of a 1951 Ford F1 Pickup, the décor is license-plate chic, and the food offers a creative nod to BBQ styles from across the Americas.

As huge fans of all things grilled and slathered in sauce, we were excited to visit American Q, located inside the B Resort near Downtown Disney, and delighted to discover Chef Justin Leo, executive chef and director of Food and Beverage, knows a thing or two about barbecue. "I always



At the heart of American Q is the eye-catching Smokehouse, which provides both a visual highlight as well as a stimulus for the appetite with its mouthwatering array of food.



By Susan & Simon Veness

# American Q *Puts the 'Q' In BBQ!*

loved barbecue grilling, having been brought up through steakhouses," he told us as we walked past the cherry red Ford that dominates the dining room. "Even in my spare time, I had a little smoker in my backyard and messed around with different sauces and profiles, so this doesn't even feel like work."

Chef Leo's background began in upscale steakhouses before he came to Florida in 2004 from the Buffalo area, securing a job as a sous chef at the Swan and Dolphin Resorts before moving on to Hilton Bonnet Creek. His next step was as executive chef for Disney's Coronado Springs, and then San Angel Inn and La Hacienda at Epcot's Mexico pavilion, giving him a well-rounded understanding of Disney dining excellence. "Orlando has changed a lot in the past 10 years and now when guests come to Disney, it is not just about rides and attractions," Leo says. "Disney is all about the show, and that's the level our bartenders, wait staff, and culinary team have to live up to. Disney sets the bar high, so it is a compliment to the team they can execute this every day."

When the Royal Plaza Resort was purchased by B Resort as their flagship hotel in 2014, the opportunity to return

to his grilling roots presented itself and Chef Leo heeded the call. "When I came, the shell of the restaurant was here and the owners said, 'This is what we want to do'. This is barbecue and beyond. It took six to eight weeks of development while we wrote menus on a piece of paper, then sat down and said 'try this; try that.' We took a week just focusing on the brisket alone. We were just being creative and had some fun with what barbecue should be."

He makes it sound easy,



The bright red 1951 Ford F1 pickup is the standout attraction in the dining room, serving as the display counter for a delicious buffet.

but a great deal of thought and effort goes into American Q's offerings. "We looked at all sorts of barbecue processes," Leo explained. "We said 'What do they do in Texas to make brisket special?' They focus on the wood bark, and use hickory and pecan. It's a

little tougher to get, but that's what we use for our brisket. 'What would barbecue be in the Pacific Northwest?' It would be made with salmon. 'What does Memphis do to their baby-backs?' When they're done smoking, they're dipped in vinegar, then more rub, then



Taking its cue from Brazilian-style rodizio buffets, American Q offers a wonderful spread of sides and salads, including baked potatoes, peel-and-eat shrimp, roasted corn and their own chili.

# Table Service



PHOTOS BY SUSAN VENESS

When it comes to the array of meats and a la carte items, American Q wows its diners with both the presentation and the tastes, giving extra polish to the likes of (from left), its slow-smoked brisket, their own crispy homemade tater tots and the unique 'Swine Candy' bacon strips.

they go back to the smoker, and that's what we do here. Of our four sauces, mangos go into the Florida interpretation while the Texas sauce is a heavy mustard and beef-based sauce. It's a

regional look at cuisines, but there's also a traditional touch."

Seated next to the bar, where whiskeys and bourbons — some of them rare cask-aged vintages — share shelf space

with the restaurant's barrel-aged cocktails and a rather bracing Moonshine, Chef Leo talked us through a tasting menu.

"Try the Swine Candy," he said, pointing to three strips of

bacon in a glass canning jar. "People go crazy over this. It is house-cured bacon topped with sugar, cayenne, chili pepper, Five-spice and black pepper. It all caramelizes and we serve it with little potato chips as an edible garnish." Crisp, with a burst of smoky sweetness, it was exactly the sort of thing you'd snack on endlessly while sitting at the bar with one of those rare bourbons and a small bucket of House Made Tater Tots.

The Memphis Baby Back Ribs were next, with a long, well-balanced mesquite and citrus wood flavor. Unlike fall-off-the-bone ribs, these had a firmer bite. "I don't want to be eating shredded pork," Chef Leo said, passing us a plate of brisket topped with Cajun onions, one of American Q's stand-out selections. "We smoke everything from start to finish," he added, "starting at six a.m. each day with the brisket, which gets 10 to 12 hours in the smoker. We also do our own sausages in-house, like the chorizo, brats,



PHOTO BY SUSAN VENESS

Another signature highlight is their Memphis Baby Back Ribs, a truly succulent and smoky concoction from their Hickory Pit barbecue. They are smoked for three hours for a long mesquite-and-citrus-wood flavor, then topped with a generous helping of house slaw and served with garlic Texas toast.

# American Q



To top off their barbecue-laden style, there are four different sauces, including classic Texas and Kansas City varieties.

and andouille sausage. There are no shortcuts in anything we do."

Smoked Pork Shoulder with Spicy Onions came next, paired beautifully with American Q's homemade Mango Heat, Texas Mustard, Kansas City and Carolina barbecue sauces. Can't get enough of their tangy goodness? They're sold in the hotel gift shop.

This being community-conscious Orlando, the restaurant uses local meats and produce, including pork and chicken from Ocala, where America Q goes the extra mile with its own pig program, insuring the pork is pasteurized and fed premium grass. Chef explained, "It would have been easy to do a standard barbecue place, but when you walk in here you know it is not a typical restaurant. If you're a restaurant on Disney property, you have to go above and beyond normal expectations."

Diners at American Q have a choice of a la carte or

the rodizio buffet (loosely translated as 'Brazilian-style all-you-can-eat'), which is a source of pride for Chef Leo. "From what we've been able to find out, we're one of the first rodizio-style barbecue restaurants in the States."

In addition to 10 meat selections served by "cowboy carvers", the buffet offers salads, a baked potato bar, roasted corn, peel-and-eat shrimp, various sides, and American Q's chili con carne, which won the 2014 Orlando Chili Cook-Off. There are also weekly promotions like Meatless Mondays for vegetarians, featuring the latest culinary craze, cauliflower steak.

Breakfast offers Mickey waffles on the Flatbed Buffet, along with steel-cut oatmeal, omelets, stuffed tomatoes and more. A la carte selections include New Orleans French Toast, Vegetable Frittata, and a twist on New England hash with brisket instead of corned beef.

We took a tour of the Old

**Location:** 1905 Hotel Plaza Blvd.

**Price Range:**

Dinner buffet: \$34.95

Appetizers: \$6.50 to \$11

Entrees: \$17 to \$33

Sides: \$5

Desserts: \$6

Breakfast buffet: \$17.95; A la carte: \$6 to \$17.25

Bar menu: \$4 to \$15

Kids menu: \$3 to \$7 Buffet: \$10



**Breakfast Hours:** 7 to 11 a.m.

**Hours:** 5 to 10 p.m.

**Happy Hour:** 4 to 7 p.m., 50% off all bar food and drinks.

**Contact:** 407-827-3080 or americanq.com



The bar area is another key feature, offering casual seating, high tops and the extensive bar itself.

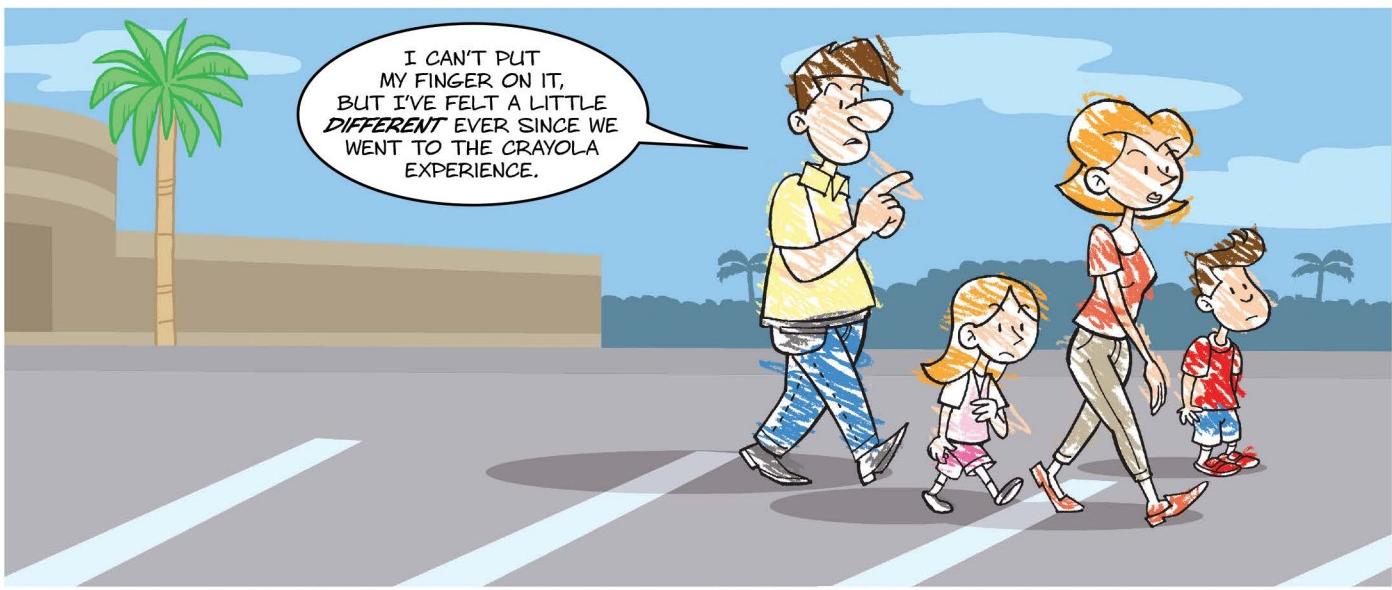
Hickory pit, where all those gorgeous smoky flavors come together. "There is a good team back here," Chef Leo said as the flames roared up, filling the room with a fabulously nostalgic scent Americans would associate with the dog days of summer. "My butcher doubles as the pit-master and is here at 5 a.m. each day. The Old Hickory pit next to the grill is the real workhorse of the restaurant, taking up to 150

racks of ribs. There is no gas, just straight hardwood fuel."

As a final thought, we asked if the waft of barbecue smoke as we walked in from the parking lot was designed to lure guests in. "When we first opened up, we had issues with the smokers getting into the ventilation ducts and tripping the smoke alarm," Leo said. "Now it directs that wonderful barbecue scent outside. It was a happy accident!"

# BeMUSEment PARK

by John Green  
& Pat Lewis



# SPOT tHe DIFFeReNcE

Fans dressed as Rapunzel, Ariel and Flynn Rider pose outside the Anaheim Convention Center during the Disney D23 Expo 2015.

**Can you find 10 differences in the bottom photo?**



PHOTO BY JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ/SUBLIME IMAGE



1. ANAHEIM on the building is now misspelled as ANAHIEM 2. Added another air conditioning unit in one of the windows of the building (top center of photo).  
3. Flynn's smile (center) has a larger smile.  
4. Flynn has a larger beard.  
5. Ariel is missing her side bow (left side of her head).  
6. Flynn's bag has changed colors from brown to teal.  
7. Rapunzel is missing a portion of her skirt pattern (bottom left of photo).  
8. Rapunzel's hair has grown longer.  
9. Pascal is sitting on Flynn's shoulder.  
10. Ariel no longer has a dark spot on her dress (bottom center of photo).



**Disclaimer:** The thoughts expressed here are not purported as fact and should be viewed as hearsay until officially confirmed or denied by the companies mentioned.

Hello, Attractions readers! Fall is here and hopefully cooler, crispier weather will follow here in sunny Florida! Since our last installment, two exciting things have been announced: Star Wars Land and Toy Story Land at Disney's Hollywood Studios. We've heard the former was a long time in the making, whereas the latter was a more recent concept that was fast-tracked. You can be assured that there are more things in the works! Let's delve into them.

## Ratatouille and Inside Out Bound for Epcot?

Once the new Frozen attraction opens in the Norway Pavilion in 2016, additional projects are rumored to be in the works to revitalize Epcot.

One is a version of the Ratatouille ride from Disneyland Paris, which would be fitting inside the France pavilion. The other is a ride concept pitched by Pixar to Imagineering for Inside Out, which may be intended for the space Cranium

Command once occupied in the old Wonders of Life Pavilion.

## A Third Park for Universal Orlando Resort?

Since Universal announced their partnership with Nintendo, rumors have been percolating about the various concepts in the works. There was talk of a new Nintendo land replacing Toon Lagoon, then rumors that Kid Zone would be the center for this new partnership, and now things have shifted to a new concept.

Universal is rumored to be in talks with an assortment of video game intellectual property holders. Why? To construct a third park based entirely on video games. The potential titles rumored so far include Warcraft, Pokémon, Mario, Minecraft, Metal Gear Solid, Sonic the Hedgehog, and an assortment of retro games, such as Pac-Man and Galaga.

This park would be years away, as it'd require a considerable budget and more land than Universal Orlando Resort currently has available.

## Marvel Expansion at Disney California Adventure

It would seem a Stars Wars-themed land isn't the only thing coming to Disneyland Resort. Due to Universal opting not to renew its license for Marvel's properties in California, Disney can, and most certainly will, use Marvel's panoply of characters in its West Coast resort.

Rumors suggest the first major expansion involving Marvel will be in Disney California Adventure, anchored behind The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror attraction. The main experience is rumored to be a high-stakes thrill ride based on The Avengers. The closest comparison would be the Iron Man Experience slated to open in Fall 2016 inside Tomorrowland at Hong Kong Disneyland.

Have a rumor, comment, or question? Send them our way at [fowlowlerson@gmail.com](mailto:fowlowlerson@gmail.com). You can also strike up a conversation with yours truly on Twitter @fowlowlerson.

## MYSTERY PHOTO

### WIN A PRIZE!

Tell us which attraction and theme park this can be found outside of and you may win a prize. To enter, e-mail your answer, along with your name and mailing address to [mystery@attractionsmagazine.com](mailto:mystery@attractionsmagazine.com).

**Hint:** Which attraction is brought to you by the official Disney fan club?



### LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWER

Congratulations to Adam Quinto from Pittsfield, Mass. He recognized this as one of the dinosaurs in Dinoland U.S.A. at Disney's Animal Kingdom. This particular dino can be found near the ceiling in Chester & Hester's Dinosaur Treasures store.





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## Attractions News from Outside the Orlando Area



### Dollywood Announces Lighting Rod .....

**Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.** — That roar you hear interrupting the serene Great Smoky Mountains is the sound of wheels on coaster track. In August, Dollywood announced another groundbreaking coaster, Lightning Rod, their seventh operating coaster. It will be the world's fastest wooden coaster and the world's first launching wooden coaster. Riders will be launched from 0 to 45 mph 20 stories up the lift hill. It will have a 165-foot drop at a record-breaking speed of 73 mph. Dolly Parton said of the ride, "Lightning Rod reminds me so much of those colorful cars cruisin' up and down Main Street in downtown Sevierville. I'm truly excited about this ride because it will let our guests experience something just as fast as those hot rods I remember." Rocky Mountain Construction will manufacture the ride utilizing topper track technology as used in Outlaw Run at Silver Dollar City and Goliath at Six Flags Great America. The \$22 million coaster, the park's single biggest attraction investment, is set to open next March.

### The Cú Chulainn Coaster Opens .....

**Tayto Park, Ashbourne, Ireland** — Tayto Park is an amusement park and zoo in Ireland owned by the Tayto company. They have been a famous maker of potato crisps since 1954. The park opened in 2010 and is one of the most visited attractions in Ireland. In

addition to visiting the Tayto factory, guests can zip line and visit the Teahouse in the Tree House. There is a petting zoo and a herd of 250 buffalo. In June, they opened a brand new thrill — The Cú Chulainn Coaster. The name Cú Chulainn comes from an historic Irish warrior who defended a province in Ireland from an invading army. This is actually the first coaster in Ireland and Europe's largest wooden roller coaster

with an inversion. Well, some would call it an over-banked turn, reserving the term 'inversion' for loops and rolls, which it does not have. Nonetheless, this nearly 4,600-foot-long, 105-foot-tall, 65 mph wooden work of art certainly thrills.



### Fireman's Landing Open .....

**Silver Dollar City, Branson, Mo.** — This summer, Silver Dollar City opened a brand new area honoring firefighters. Silver Dollar City is a unique theme park that is themed to 1880s Branson, Mo. Fireman's Landing is no exception. The new area includes 10 "family adventures" including six rides and four attractions. There is Firefighter's Fire Drill, where aspiring firefighters get to practice their skill at dousing mock fires. For those hot Branson summer days, Firehouse Splash Yard features squirting water jets and pump hoses. The centerpiece of the area is Firefall, an eight-story drop tower. For your little firefighter, there is also a junior drop tower. The area is open now and the park is open most days through the end of the year.





## Disneyland Celebrates 60 Years

**Disneyland Resort, Anaheim, Calif.** — “To all who come to this happy place, welcome.” It was July 17, 1955 – 60 years ago – that Walt Disney announced the opening of Disneyland. Of course, they pulled out all the stops for the 60th celebration. Three all new nighttime spectaculars were added: Paint The Night Parade, Disneyland Forever fireworks and projections show, and World of Color – Celebrate. Daily and weekly prizes are awarded to some lucky park guests. Some prizes include private tours, private parties, 1-carat diamonds, stays in the Disneyland Dream Suite, crystal Cinderella slippers, and more. The Mad T Party dance party returned as the Diamond Mad T Party. The Haunted Mansion got back the Hatbox Ghost. The Abominable Snowman was updated in Matterhorn Bobsleds. And, Peter Pan reopened with some re-imagined scenes. Restaurants and food carts around the Disneyland Resort are carrying special diamond celebration beverages and food. On July 17, all guests received a complimentary cupcake to mark the actual anniversary.

## Ninjago Heading to Legoland California

**Legoland, Carlsbad, Calif.** — Legoland is bringing to life the Lego property Ninjago, popularized by a TV series on Cartoon Network, video games and of course, toys. It has been one of the most successful Lego series ever. Next spring, a new Ninjago area will open and include a new ride. Details are sparse in regards to the ride, but it is reported to include all four of the main Ninjago ninja characters. The area, as with all areas within Legoland, will include many interactive elements. As has been the rule more than the exception, one should expect this to hit Legoland Florida in the near future as well.



## Shaun the Sheep Land Coming to Sweden .....

**Skånes Djurpark, Hoor, Sweden** — If you are stateside, Skånes Djurpark (translated “Zoo of Scania”) may not be at the top of your vacation destinations, nor Sweden for that matter. But, approximately a quarter million guests visit annually. Founded in 1952, they specialize in Nordic animals with about 85 species, making it the largest park in the world with Nordic species. They are particularly known for their large animal habitats and are credited for saving several species from extinction. They recently announced they would open the world’s first Shaun the Sheep Land. The attraction will be in 3D, allowing guests to “see, feel, taste, and experience” the world of Shaun the Sheep. The project is budgeted for \$7.8 million and is expected to open next summer.



**CORRECTION:** In our last issue, Thunderbird at Holiday World was incorrectly identified as the first launching wing coaster in the world. It is the first launched B&M-manufactured launching wing coaster in the world and first launching wing coaster in the United States. Intamin's launching wing coaster, Furius Baco at PortAventura in Spain, opened in 2007.

### Out of the Loop Twitter Feed

For more ongoing coverage of news out of the Central Florida loop, follow me on Twitter @AttractionsOOTL. Also follow our main Twitter feed @Attractions.



# Lights, Camera, Attraction!



Epcot



**T**he jumping fountains at the Imagination pavilion are cool to watch, but they're also a good way to cool off. If you position yourself in the right place (or wrong place if you don't want to get wet), you may get splashed right on your head. Joey Golec from Marco Island, Fla., had to jump to splash the water stream down on his head.

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